THE MERCHANTS MANVELL,

Being

A step to Stedfastnesse, tending to settle the Soules of all sober minded Christian Catholiques, as they have beene taught, and learned the Lord Iesus the Sauicur, in the Holy Catholike Church

By WILLIAM LOE.

I Cor. 15 58.

My beloued Brethren, be ye fielf aft, and vamoueable, alwaies abounding in the worke of the Lord, for a smuch as you know that your labour is not in vaine in the Lord

LONDON,

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TO
THE RIGHT
Worshipfull, the
Governour, Deputies,
Asistants, and Generality
of that ancient and worthy
Fellowship of Merchants
Aduenturers wheresoeuer residing:
Grace be multiplied in Christ,
with all happy, and prosperous successe in all their exportant, and important

Aduentures both by Sea and Land.



and not 7, and since you cannot change your merrit, 7 will not change your Title:) Vouchsafe him, whose yeares doe pleade so plaine a Prerogative, and fo faire a Priniledge, that nething is, or can be as yet expected from him, but an essay at the most; especially, in a subject of so high & beauenly a nature, as is the thrice facred Maiefty of Dininitie. Vonchsafe him, I say, to render an accompt of the hope of his Faith he hath in Christ, who blefferh God dayly. that hath enabled him to understand his Principles, and in some measure of grace to practife them: the Summe that I would say is this

Dedicatory.

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this. On Earth & beleeue that GOD bath a bleffed Communion of holy ones, an heavenly boushold of Faith, the fruitfull Sponse, and faithful Church of Christ; which Church is most neceffary of all pions people diligently to be fought out for among all the Societies of Mankind in the World. and being found out it is most conscionable and most comfortable for them to fettle therein. For whofe Communion Should Gods people embrace ? Whofe directions (hould they follow? and in whose indgements should they rest? to satisfie, and resolue them in all points both of Contronersie, Conscience, and A 3 con-

The Epistle

consequence : but in that fauing Truth, which is found no where elfe in the Whole Worlde, but in the doctrinal Principles. and Supernatural Verities, which that sacred societie bane alwayes received, retained, relyed upon, and dyed for in times of Persecution. In all ages there. fore all sober, wife, and indicious people, have ener made more pretions account of Bookes of Princi ples, then of those, that are Written of any other argu. ment what focuer. And undoubtedly there was neuer any treasure held more rich, and pretious by those that knew bow to prize, and value things aright, t ben

Dedicatory.

then bookes of that kinde, which peremptorily prescribe against all prophane, uncertaine, and unsound nouelties. It cansed there. fore a great light in the Church, to fay, that hee would not fo much as difcourse, much leffe dispute or argue with any man concerning sacred and divine things, unleffe he first difcourred whether hee held the generall Principles, wherein al true Christians doe, and ever did agree. Wherein if bee found him to differ and disagree, hee prescribed against him as against a Nouice, Noue. list, and Stranger from the common wealth of the Israell of GOD, and as one

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The Epistle

one that had no part, nor tellowship in that holy bufine fe. Which wife godly, and refolute prescription of chat boly man, if it were put in practise at this day, in this talkatine age of ours about matters of Re. ligion, there would not be questions of Controversie so many in number, and fo intricate in nature to distract the giddy multitudes, there would not bee so many idle Gossips, and Romish col lapsed Ladyes and others, who at thirty, forty, fifty yeares of their age and up. wards, are to chuse what Religion they should be of, and to seeke What grounds to stand upon, and there would not be such pranalent

Dedicatory.

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lent perswasion with so many misperswaded subsects among vs, by those Subtill Emissaries of the Iesuiticall Frie ; but the people of our Natson would more closely flicke to their Principles, and line, and die in the Piety, and pra-Etise of the institutions, and instructions of their Mother-Church of England. As for the Miftris Church (the new Romane Church I meane) which like an imperious Empresse would, and doth endenour to domineere oner all; that Patriarchall Prelate, Doctor Moston, Bithop of Couentric and Lichfield, hath lately in his Booke entitated The grand

The Epistle

grand Imposture, demonstratively showed to all sober, and well disposed mindes (that are not ftupified with the Latian Lateran poyfon) to be most Antichristian, and abominable. I have endenoured in this little . Manuell' which I have collected? and compiled out of his papers (who is most neere, & deere unto me on earth) to say nothing but what is confenant to the Doctrine of my Mother . Church the Church of England: wherof that I am a fonne, and wherein that I line, 7 bleffe GOD with all my beart, for I sudge it my better being after my first being in the world, and f bope

Dedicatory.

hope thereby to attains tomy best being in evernall bappine fe, through Iefu Christ my most deere Lord and Saniiur. That I call this collection the Merchants Manuell, it is for that I principally defire it should be fostered, fanoured, and followed in the prastise thereof, by the younglings of your society: as for others, whose yeares require fronger meate, it may bee to them onely as a remembrancer is to a great Person of State. That I dedicate it to your Com. pany, enquire not farther after the reason then this, that I professe, and protest that herein I imitate only him (who is more deere unto

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The Epistle

unto mee then my owne bloud) whose sincere affer Etions towards your fellowship both publiquely in his constant preaching, and praying & prinately in his viual ofamiliar discourse are abundantly testified to as many as beare him, and know bins. I leaus therefore this my boldnesse to be conceined of by you all; as your generall censures in jour publique meetings, and individuall judgments in your senerall breasts, shal be guided by your descreete wisedomes in the light of the Almighty God. To whole fauing mercies in Christ, I recommend you, and all your lawfull negotiations undertaken for the bushubanding and exporting the manufacture of the stople commodity of the Land, for the great reliefe of the laboring poore within the Land, and for the particular increase of enery one of your personall estates to the good of the Land, and the glory of your God, and desire I may be by you reputed but worthy of being

Yours in the seruice of lesus Christ to bee commanded,

W.L.

Cambridge Trin. Coll. October 30.

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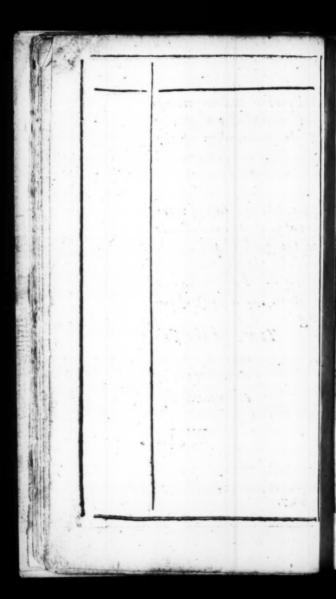
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you,





Consider these holy Oracles before your Confession of Fact.

That there were Deut. 5.29. Ofuch an heart in this people (faith the Lord) to feare me, and to keepe all my Commandemets alwaie, that it might goe well with them, and their Children for ener:

Hee that hideth his Pro. 28.3 finnes

sinnes shall not prosper, but hee that confesseth them & forsaketh them shall have mercie.

1 Ie,19.

If wee confesse our sinner, hee is faithfull, and inst to forgine vs our sins, & to clense vs from al unrighteonsner.

16 any man sinne, we have an Aduocate with

the Father, lesus Christ the righteous, and he is the Propitiation for our

sinnes.

Ponder them in your heart with filent, yet instant groanings after perfection, and then fay.

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THE MERCHANTS MANVELL.

A Confession of fins, as we take a view of our felues. and of all the maffe of mankinde, in the cleare Mirrour of Gods Mandats.



Lord, God of my life, and linelihoode, Father of mer-

cies, B

cies, and the onely comfort of thy children: Lend a gracious eare I most humbly entreat, and cast downe vpon me a mercifull eye of pittie, and compassion, for Iesus Christ his sake.

V pon mee (sweet Father) vpon me I say thy most miserable and most wretched creature, the chiefe of great and grieuous offendours, who when I set before mine eyes the glasse of thy law, and resear vpon my selfe.

Rom. 7.

I fee thy facred Law to be most pure, holy, & good, but my selfe to bee most vile, most vngodly, & ful of spets, of al kinde ren: are l reat, n me

ittie, or Ie-

t Fay thy most the griewho

who mine f thy vpon

Law oly, & o bee odly, kinde of impurities, both of the flesh, & of the spirit.

Com. T. Thou fhalt have no other God but me.

For thon O my God, hast commanded mee by that terrible voyce of thy Law, in some measure to know thy will, to beleeue in thee by the acknowledgement of all, and enery one of thy Commandements, Judgments, Promises, Performances, and Mercies.

To trust in thy fatherly Prouidence, to expect thy Promises, and waite for thy Performances with patience, in hope, to line alwayes in filials

B a feare,

Cel. 1. 10.

Heb.11.6.

Pf4.55.22

Rom. 8.24.

Pfal. 16.8.

Gen. 5.24.

feare, and awfull regard, as one knowing that I am alwayes, and enery where in thy presence, to loue thee aboue all things, how neere or deere so ener they are wnto me, to be humble wnder thine hand, albeit I bee not humbled with any crosse or lose, that is sensible.

Ef.8.13.

Phil.3.1.

1.The . 5 . 18

To fanctifie thee O my GOD in mine heart and spirit, by holy and heavenly thoughts, and desires, spiritually to reioyce in thee, and in and for all things to tender, and render all possible harty thankfulnes with thee.

But O Lord, of my

life, I most sinful wretch, have beene tempted to thinke there is no God, and to say so in mine heart, or to live so, as if I should never be called to a reckoning, for ought that ever I did.

Yea holy Father, I have been tempted with blindnesse of errours, of life, and herefies, of false worship, to be ignorant, and carelesse of thee, and of thy reuealed wil, both by Insidelity, Impatience, and Hardnesse of heart, the very sparkes and stashes of hell.

I have feared men O
my God, more then thy
Maiestie, & through my
Security, Presumption,
B 2 and

Math.10.

Pfal. 14.1.

Ier.4.23.

14m.2.26.

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Luc. 14, 26 and want of true loue to thee, O Lord, I have loued my foolish selfe, my Parents, my Husband, my Children, my credit, my friends : yea mine owne pleasures, and paftimes more then thee. I have put too much

confidence in my wealth, and caried my felfe to high in opinion of my wit, beauty, strength, friends, and fuch like momentany Molchils, whereby I have tempted thee by vnlawful means,

Mat. A.

ler 17. 3. ES 48.

Luc.2-119.

God. Yea, O my Father, I haue distrusted thy po-

grieued thine holy Spirit, and most wretchedly

forgot thee O Lord my

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wer, thy mercy, thy goodnes, and good will, and have cherished carnall feares, pride, and hardnes of heart.

What shall I doe, O thou preserver of men? my Rebellions are many, and manifold, and I lie downe before thee in my confusion; for I have sinned against thee O my God, from my youth vp, even vntill this day.

O deare Father, rend my heart, and give mee feeling, cleave it asunder by thy piercing spirit, strike good Lord this hard rocke of mine heart, that flouds efforrowfull repentance may flowe out in true and vn-

B 4 fained

Rom. 11.20. 2 Reg. 7. fained griefe, for so foule offences transacted 2-gainst thee so. faire and gracious 2 God.

Let not my wants, Sweet Father, stand euer betweene thee and mee; but supply in mercie what is amifie, and defective in me: Gineme a will to defire good; giue mee a grace to bee good: graunt mee a power, and abilitie to doe good : giue me a loueto like it, and strength to continue in it all my dayes: that I may have none other GOD but thec.

Com.

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Com. 2. Thou Shalt not make to thy selfe any granen Image, &c.

Hou, O my GOD, I hast enjoyned mee to vie all ordinary and extraordinary feruices that doe belong vnto

thy fincere worship. All ordinary duties of thy feruice, as hearing the word preached, Prayer: Vie of thy Sacraments, Reading, Meditation, Conferences

All extraordinary duties, as Fasting, to humble mee, to make my prayers feruent, to chafife my fleft, to preuent 10.3.5. indgements to come, and

Rom. Io.

I.Theff. 5 AA.17, 1. 1.Cor.11.

Ezech.3.z.

1,Cor.9.

Or by the least approbation of Idolatry in reliques and rufty monuments, in fociety with Infidels, in will-worskip, in good intentions not warranted by the word, and in monafticall and Popish vowes.

But I. miserable wretch, haue beene apt to conceit to my selfe other formes and fashions of thy worship, after Mat. 7.7. mine owne foolish fancie, I have ferned thee Mare.7.6. with lip-labour without the heart, and haue too much negleted the bleffed meanes of thy feruice, as hearing the Word, Prayer, Reading, Meditation, conference.

Hofb. 13.2.

Col. 2. 23.

Deut.4.25

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rence, and the like.

Yea, I feare holy Lord that I have hindered and offended thine holy worship, either by my neg-

fpeech, cowardly fi-

vowes.

Pfal.76.10. flure, or elfe by halting betweene two opinions, by making rash vowes, and by breaking lawfull

Deare Father, hane mercy vpon mee, though my finnes bee crimfon red, thou canst make them as white as snowe. O burie in the bottome of the Sea all my finnes, and all the breaches of this thy Commaunde-

ment, repaire and make

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vp againe, that I may worship thee in Spirit, and Truth.

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That I may vie the holy meanes, helpes, and furtherances, of thy true and fincere worship; as conference with godly Preachers, Vowes, Fasting, humble Supplication to thy throne of Grace, Ministery of thy Word and Sacraments, with the assembly of godly ones.

O my God thou hast giuen mee a Sauiour, in that Sauiour of mine thine owne deare Sonne looke in mercy vpon me, and grant mee to loue thee, and all persons and places that belong to

thy

thy holy worship; that according to thy promise, thy goodnesse may extend to mee, and to thousands of my generations after me.

Com. 3. Then shalt not take the name of thy Lord thy God in vaine.

Am obliged, O my

God renerently, and

Leuit.14.

Deut. 28.

I Cor.is.

religiously to vse thy dreadfull Name, thy Titles; as Lord, God, Jehouab: thine Attributes, as Mercie, Trueth, Power, fustice; and thine

Ordinances, as the Word, Faith, Sacraments, Creatures,

To

that To confider thy merprocie to my selfe in pertimay cular, to thy Church, and d to Common-wealth in generanerall, to vie the meanes of Saluation profitably, to be thankefull for posilt mot tiue & prinatine fauors. To heare thy Word with fruite, to reade with profite, to practife with pietie, to pray with feeling and feruencie, to fweare religiously in matters of importance,

> and by the Lord only. Thou O my God haft forbidden me to be a periur'd person, or to sweare that is falle, to fweare in common talk, or to sweare by that which is no God, as by the

2 54m. 13 7, 8.

Eph. 5. 20.

Exod. IS. I.

1 Pet.2. 2

ler. 5. 7.

Math. 5.33

Mat.23.22

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to afblaspheme by my dissolute connersation. But I (most wretched

creature) have taken thy name in vaine by vaine thoughtes, vaine defires, vaine words, vaine actions, by carelesse and vareuerent vsing the names of thee my God; as God, Lord, Christ, Iesus, and the like, in my common and frequent talke.

Yea O Lord, I have abused thy blessed mame by swearing vainely, rashly, falsely, by speaking coursly of thy blessed name, by cursing, by idle and curious questions, by iests, scottes, taunts, and I have sinced

O my God, in not rebuking

2 Sam, 12.

Mal. 1,6.

140.5.12.

2 Pet. 3.

Ef. 22.13.

Ef. 22.13.

king those that I have heard abuse the same.

I have heard thy most facred name spoken of, and have not been so atentive or so delighted therein and therewith as I should; yea even when I have heard thy name preached of publiquely, and received the Sacrament.

O God, I have flighted thy Iudgements, broken my wowes made at Baptisme; and sithence (yea I have O Father,) I have presumed on thy mercies, found fault with thy creatures, made outward profession of thy most glorious name, and lived within mine owne

walles

AA. 17. Pro.17.

2 Tim.3.

Tit.1.16

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walles very prophanely and hipocretically: O my finfull flesh, espie thine owne case: O my God, wash me from all my sinnes: O my sweet Sauiour, who seeth not what man is without thee?

Full heavie laden come
I to thee, O tender hearted Father: as thou haft
promifed, refresh and
case my trembling heart,
my carefull minde, my
fearefull conscience, that
I may have a zeale to thy
glory above all things in
the world, and may magnisie thy name for ever.

Com.

Com. 4. Remember thou keepe boly the Sabath day, orc.

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Ef. 56,23.

Oreoner, O my WI weet God, thou haft commanded me to prepare my selfe to all hely duties, when I intend thy folemne feruice, as before I goe to Church, to dispose of & to dispatch all worldly occasions. To reconcile my felfe

Pfal.4.4.

Pro. 28.13.

Mat.7.4.

vnto thee, in examining mine owne Soule, in confessing my finnes, in crauing parden for them, and defiring supplie of my wants, and in being ready addressed to heare,

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In the congregation thou hast commanded me to behaue my selfe as in thy presence (O God,) to apply all I heare vnto my selfe and to mine owne conscience, in reproofes to be humbled, in thy promises to reioyce, for mercies to be thank efull, and earnestly to desire graces.

After the affemblies, to pray for a blesfing on what I have heard, to meditate thereof by my felfe, to conferre with others, to instruct my familie, and to thinke on thy workes, power, wisdome, mercie and goodnesse.

All

Pfal. 27.8.

2 Reg. 22.

Rom. 5.1.

Pf.119.4.5

Pfal. 1.2.

Gen. 18.19.

Rom. 1.20.

All this ought I to have don to fanctifie thy Sabaths, and much more, in rifing early for my better preparation therwato. But I finfull creature have grievously offended thee (O God of rest) in eyther being abfent from thy congregation upon slight occasions, or unprofitably present; and by too much eating and drinking, I

godlie purposes.

I haue vsed recreations not fit, I haue sought after mine owne profits and pleasures, spoke mine owne words, cuen worldly speeches, and

haue made my felfe vnfitte for holie duties and

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Luk: 23.

Ex.23.8. Ef. 58.13. imagined vain thoughts, trauailed vnnecessarie ioutnies, don the works of my callings, externally observed thy Sabaths O God, without the inward power of godlines.

Moreoner, O God, I have beene weary in thy Seruice, and have wished both Sermon and Sabath at an end, or else I have spent the day idlely in my selfe, and carelesty toward my family committed to my charge.

What shall I doe O thou preseruer men, thy mercie is most merual-lous toward mee, who art contented with one day in seauen, and yet I miserable and finfull wretch.

Mal.1.

Amos 3.

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wretch, have not remem. bred to keepe it holy vnto thee as I ought.

Whereas O my God thou mightest iustly a thougand times have made an ende of mee amidst my delights, my dalliances, my daunces, yea betweene my combe and my glaffe, and haue asked mee whether that were to fandifie thy Sabaths, or to honour thy name, as to fwill, to bibble, to wallowe, and tumble in bed vatill noone, with too too many fuch idle vanities. O fweet Father, if theu be not mercifull, we shall furely feele thy heauie hand for these our disobediences. For

nem. holy t. God ly a haue mee my aces, mbe haue that y Sa. r thy , to , and ntill too! ties. theu e fhal еаціс difo For

For I ought to have spent thy holy day in the reading of the Scriptures, and other Bookes of godly men as helpes thereunto, in singing Psalms, & holy Hymnes, in relieuing my poore neighbours, in visiting the sicke, in comforting the afflicted, in making peace among my neighbours and in instructing,

thing.

Awake me deere Father, thy poore and humble childe, graunt me a touch & fensible feeling of all my finful defects, with remorce of conscience, but O Lord neuer lay them to my charge.

reproning, and admoni-

For

AA. 8. Heb. 6.1.

Ephef. 5:19 Math. 25.

For thy pitty fake in Christ, encrease my zeale touching this thy Commaundement : Encrease in me a care, and confcience fo to live, that thou maift bee honoured, thy power magnified, others may bee moued by my good example to bee good, and faue my foule in the great day of judg. ment, and whiles I liue, cause me to have an espe ciall eye to remember the fandifying of thy Sabaths.

Com. 5. Honour thy Father and Mother &c.

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God,

God, to renerence in heart, word, and behauiour, all my Superiours, whether they be parents
Ecclefiasticall, Political, or naturall, to be obedient vnto them, to pray for them, to lone them, to imitate their vertues, to esteeme renerently of my equals, and to preferre them before my selfe.

In my selfe thou hast charged me to walk vprightly, to maintaine my reputation with honestie, to walke religiously toward thee O G O D, righteously toward me, and soberly in mine own deportment; yea, to give good examples to

C 2

1 Pet. 2. 13

Rom. 13. 1

1 Tim. 2. 2

Phil.4. 8.

Tit.2.12

Phil. 3. 13

In-

106 8.3 1 .

Inferiours, to yeeld vn to them in all good things, and not to despife them in the leaft.

Ephes. 5.

Thou haft enjoyned me obedience, and fub iection to mine own Husband, to bee his hel-

Ephes.6

per in all good things to bee fearefull to difplease him; to honour

Pros. 17.6.

and obey my Parents, and with all love and thankfulnes in fome fort to requite their carefulneffe.

Heb. 13.

To Submit my felfe vn tomy Pastour and Minifter, to pray for him, to giuchim double honour, not to follow Strangers, to deale equally with

I T.m.2. I Tim. 5. Gen 18.

Col. 4.

my fernants, to be care. full 21

full for their foules and bodies, to pay them their dues, and not to be rigorous vato them.

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But I finnefull wretch haug dishonoured my Superiours, scorned and distained my Equalls, discredited my selfe by walking inordinately, in conceiring too well of my selfe, and to my inferiours, I, GOD thou knowest haue ginen full ill example.

I have beene tempted to disobey, and in mine heart to despise, and to become disloyall to my thusband, both in want of true loue, and faithfull affection; as also in froward wordes, sullen

C 3 lookes,

left. I.

2 Sam. 6.

Eph. 5.33.

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forgiue me, for I am forie in my heart, and promise by thy grace to walke more orderly.

Thou hast love in store I know it, now in life I feeke it yea , and thou haft judgements alfo in ftore, euen from mine owne lawes, to difgrace and dishonour mee, if thy facred perswafien preuaile not. O my conscience fweet Father in this, and cast not in my teeth my vile corruption , but graunt me to honour my Parents, that I may fee holy, and happy dayes for ener.

C 4 Com.

Com. 6. Then shalt not kill.

Ephe. 5. 15

Hou Omy GOD, haft further charged mee by all possible meanes, to preferue the life of the foule and bedie, both of my felfe and others.

First, of mine owne Mat.16.26 foule, in walking warily in the narrowe path of life, to anoyde the enil in the world (as much as I can) which destroies the foule, not to live in

140, 2,20,

Heb. 2.3.

ordained to faluation, as Pfal. 5.10. Hearing, Reading, Praying, Conferring, Con-

anie knowne finne, nor

to neglect anie meanes

fessing,

felsing , Sacraments, Vowing, and the like.

For my bodie, thou O my God hast commaunded me to vie wholefom 2 Tim. 5. foode & cloathing, holy and honest mirth, which preferne life, tokeepe a good conscience, to auoyde all ill companie. and all contagious difeales, and to vie the helpe of Phyfick and exercife.

Concerning the foules of others, especially of those of my Familie, I ought to have taken all Ezech.33. occasions, to promote their Saluation, to teftifie my diflike of their finnes, roadmonish emhort, reproduc, and inftruct them in all pati-

CS ence, Pro.17. 22.

Pro. 13.18. Mat 19.12 1 Tim. 5.23

i Cor.10.33

I Theft, 5 Heb. 10.

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ng,

ence; to gine them good 2 Chron, 34 example, yea & to compell them, if it lie in my power to cutward obedience.

Mat. 18.6

To be grieued for the murther of fouls by idle, blinde, corrupt, and lewd living Ministers, and by no meanes ought I to have given offence by my fcandalous life.

And concerning the life, & person of others, thou O my God, haft bid I 20. 4

me loue them as my felfe, and to preferue their life by all good meanes; yea, to make their life com.

fortable vato them , as Ezech.18.7 much as heth in me, and to feeke peace with all men, by all kinde of curtelies.

tefies, meekeneffe, kindneffe, and all long fufferance.

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To preferue the reputation and good name of Row. 1.29 others, to deale inftlie, to defend, and rescine them that are wronged, to confter all to the best. to paffe by offences, to vifite and comfort the ficke, to flew the works of Mercie, whereby life, goods, and good name are preferned.

But I dust-creeping creature, a werme, and no man, haue beene cruell to mine owne soule. by walking inordinatly, by continuing in known finnes , and in either Lac.1,22 reiecting the foode

Prou. 19,20

Exed 2.

M41.24 IAC. I.IT

Pro. 8.35

Prou.II.19

Prou. 28.9

like of finne, nor punifhed Offendours, (if it lay in my power) for ill doing.

Befiles, O my God, I haue not shunned all occasions that might hurt either in heart, word, or deed: In heart, as vnaduited anger, malice, hatred, enuic, and defire

of revenge.

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In word, as bitter and curfing speaking, brawling, threatning, fcoffing, fcorning, mocking, nay, nor yet indeed have I shunned the very act as hath appeared in my Ef. s. churlish behauiour, treachery oppression grinds ing the faces of the poore, by cruell and re hard

I Reg.20.

Math. 5.

I 10.3.12. Rom. 12.

Pro. 12.

Gal. s.

2 Reg. 2.23

hard improvements of 2 Reg 2,23 my rents, and reuenues, in my fighting, & blowes either to servant, childe, wife, or neighbour.

Ayeme poore wretch, what shall I doe? O thou Saujour have mercie on me, for my heart is flay. ned with hatred, and my tongue hath strayed, and fpet venome of euill and bitter words, euen to denoure (if I could) those with whom I have beene offended.

I have not, O my Father, inubbed my heart, when I have perceined, and felt it for want of true loue to giue way; nay, to prouoke my lawish tongue to miscall. reuile,

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reaile, and reproach my neighbour. O the God of Gods, bee mercifull vnto mee, and deale not with mee according to my finnes, and prouocations, and tempeations in this kinde, neither reward mee according to my bloodie minde, that I have beene vrged vntoby Satan : but keepe me O Lord, and all mine, from that crying finne of bloudshed, that it neuer flicke to me, nor to any of my posteritie for euer; but purge and purifie my heart of all thought, and imagination thereof, and forgine, and forget what is past, and look graciously vpon me thy fernant that most heartily blesse and praise thee for thy preuentions and preservations, O Lord my God and mercifull Saurour.

Com. 7. Then shalt not commit adulterse.

Hou hast commanded me, O God, to

puritie, in all honestie, and modestie, both in words, lookes, behaui-

our, carriage, apparell; as also in all moderate temperance of diet,

fleepe, pleafure, and the

As alfo that I be painfull in my calling and

place

Theff.s. Ephef 4. Gen.24.

Zeph.I.8.

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place, to be carefull ouer mine eyes and cares, and in no waies to entertaine inticements, but to preferue Modestie both in my countenance, and eyes; in speaking gratious words, and decent speeches, & in putting on comely, and modest apparell, that so I might show my Chastiey both of soule, and body in my single life, and

But I miserable wretch have beene wanton, and have beene too subject to the lust of the heart, to strange pleasures, to nocturnal pollutions, to effeminate wantomesse, by idlenesse, lascurious attire;

married eftate.

Pfal.119.

Rom. 13,13

Cal. S.

Mat. 5

42

Ezick 16.

2 Sam. II.

Ef.3. 1

Gen. 39.

2.Pet 2.14

Ef. 3

of my marriage bed.

By the fe, and many other such like, O my Father, my soule hath suckt

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in her bane, & yet I haue not cared, or haue bene warned.

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Now O God of heauen, give mee a fence, a touch, a feeling of my groffenesse herein, and in mercy wash my soule, & my body in the bloud of Christ, from all impurities both of the flesh and of the spirit, for hee in my shesh hath sulfilled the whole Law, and that for me.

Good Lord gine mee eies to see, and an heart to weigh the foulenesse, and sithines of all manner of pollutions whatsocuer, and that I may in heart, soule, and body loath and detest them;

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yea and all occasions, and meanes that have or may intice me, yea and all person, places, times, & opportunities that have inticed, or may intice my fraile, and feeble seems feel to any seesfull, venaturall, beastly, or diabolically neleannesse.

This shall I beable, to doe (good Father) if thou bee assisting vnto mee; Thou, and thy Power, and thy Mercy shall worke it in me. Which vouchsafe vnto me poore and fraile creature. O heauesly Father, that I may gloriste in soule, & body thy gracious name; and line vnpolluted all my dayes, for thise vnemes—

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measurable,& vnsearchable goodnesse sake.

Com. 8. Thou shalt not steale.

Thou also & Lord of Hosts, & Fountaine of fauours) hast commanded me to imploy that estate, thou hast blessed mee withall to mine owne good, and to the good of others.

To mine owne good, in mine owne lawfull calling and painefulneffe therein, to have an honest care that nothing be lost, to be content with mine estate, to moderate and himit mine expense according to my meanes.

Thou also (O my God)

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Gen.3. 19.

2 Theff.3

10. 6. 11. Pros. 12

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Pros.6.

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eating and drinking, exceeding in apparrelland pleasure, and to hard Luc. 15. hearted, and to fast handed to those to whome I should have been more bountifull, or (at the least) beneficiall, yea, I have been too couctous and having, neither have I bestowed so large a portion according to that theu (O God) hast bestowed vpon me in fuch a measure and on fuch persons, in Church and Common-wealth, as I ought to have done.

The Lord in mercie looke vpon me, and give me grace to bewaile my sinnes in this case; the Lord giue me pardo, the

Lord

AA.12.

Lord give me faith, O Lord change my life to a better course, for thy bleffed name and mercies fake.

Com. 9. Thou shale not beare false witnesse against thy Neighbour.

Hou hast further commanded me (O God) to vse all good meanes to nourish the credit and the reputation both of my selfe and others.

A#.10.1

Concerning mine own good name and credite, to feeke it by religeous living, to keepe frick watch over every finne that may difcredit me,

2 Sam. 12

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Heb. Io.

hort them to a better condition, to reprodue them for the euill, and to remember and remerence the good that is in others.

Thou (O Lord) hast commanded me to reioyce at the credite and estimation of others, to conster doubtfull enils to the better part, not to beleeve running reports, to keepe secret the oftence of my neighbour, except it must be of necessitie revealed.

But (O Father of mercies) I have foolifhly ouerweened my selfe, and vnderualued others, hoasted and praised my selfe, yea, I have been de-

lighted.

lighted to beare my selfe aboue my birth, & hane had a great want of care for the getting & maintayning of my good name by mine offensine

and scandelous lyuing.

And touching others,
I have lyed vnto them,
and foolishly enuied at
their reputation. I have
suspected euill without
cause, judged rashly, aggranated small saultes,
and made my selfe merrie with the infirmities
and infamies of others.

I have whispered to hurtand discredit others; yea, I have listed to much to tale-bearers, slanderers and falle accufers.

D2 More-

AA, 8.9.

Pfal.31.

2 Sam. 12

1 Cor. 13.

I Sam. I.

Pfal. 58.

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Gen. 19.22.

Pfal. 52.1.

Rom. I.

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Moreoner, I have spoken trueth with an intent to hurt, and disgrace others, I have been too apt to take thinges in the worksence, & thereby lessened the graces of others.

I have flattered my felfe and others, and deepely diffembled, and have been most ready to bewray and blaze the infirmities and slippes of others, with diffaine of them, and defire of mine owne glory.

O foule tongue, O vaine heart, O foolish babling and prating. What shall I say? Nay, what can I not say (O Father) to accuse my

felfe !

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) h felfe heerein. O take from me, fweet Father. the curfed condition of Cham, the foule & black mouth of I mael, for there is no mischiefe to to the tongue. Put a bridle in my lips, O Lord, and keepe the doore of my mouth, let the Lawe of grace be in my heart, and feeing thou haft hedged in my tongue with a double barre of lipps, and teeth, make me able to tame that ynruly euitl, and let my words be as fo many facred sparkes raised from the fire of godly truth, and honefty, that I may neuer beare falfe witnes against my neighbour, but but euer true testimonie for, and with my neighbour.

Com. 10. Thou fhalt not court, co-c.

Nd thou, O my GOD, haft commanded mee to have my thoughts and defires ac-I Tim. 6.8. cording to Charitie, to be content with my portion, to wish and delight in my neighbours good.

To friue and ftruggle against lust, and cuill thoghts, to keep my hart with all diligence, to pray that it might be alwayes enclined vnto thy testimonies, and that it might euer | neditate on thee.

1 Theff. 2.

Gal. 5.

thee, O my good GOD, and on all good things that thou half made.

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But 1 most sinfull, and most wretched wicked creature, by mine originall corruption, and seed of sinne, have had sinfull thoughts of minde, cursed imaginations of hart, and vaine cogitations of much euill in mine affections.

Desiring, and foolishly couering the things of
other, which are none of
mine, having multitudes
of vaine, idle, phantasticall, vostruitfull, coueting, angrie worldly, and
vnsanctified thoughts in
mine heart vnrepented
of, and swarmes of cuils

Pfal.119.

lac, 1 14. Gal. 5. Gen 6. ler. 4.

Gen. 8. 21,

Rom. 7 . 7 .

in my breast enraging, and setting on fire by loose desires, the frame & fabrique of my whole sinfull nature.

Informach, that my verie rest in the night seafon, hath had fonle and
impure dreames, which
I (besides the inclination
of my restlesse nature)
have set forward by disdicting my body, and by
giving the raynes to
mine vabrideled affections in the day time.

Yea, O my God, the Houses, Chambers, Closets, Fields, Gardens, Walls, Hedges, Arbours, Seates, Pillowes, and all witnesse against me, and with shriking sound tell

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me what houres, dayes, weekes, moneths, and yeares, I have spent in tolsing, and turning, and tumbling vp and downe fuch vaine, fuch vile, fuch base, such wretched, such wicked, such deuillish conceites, as I would not for all the world, O my GOD, that they were written in my forehead, and yet, O my Father, I am not ignorant that all things are open, and naked to thy fight; let me doe them, or thinke them neuer fo conertly, neuer lo closely in this world.

And if any one (deere Father) did heare mee now befides thee, and shall thinke mee vile in

D5 these

these Confessions of mine; Let him know O my GOD, I will yet be more vile in this kinde of Confession, that I may bee nothing in my selfe, and I am sure that I shall be something with thee, for thou, O my tender hearted Father, wilt take pittie vpon me.

For these things have I don:, O thou preserver of mankind; these things have I done, I say, even I, and none but I, I know my selfe, O God, better then anie else in the world, and am conscious of mine inbred corruptions. O Lord, I therfore confesse to thee, I cry, yea, sie to thee for

for mercie; for thou only, O Lord, knowest better then my selfe all mine infirmities, and knowest how in thy mercie to releeue me in them.

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For ther hath no fin bin committed by any fince the face of man, how foule, filthy, haynous, cruell, bloudie, or diuellish so euer it hath been, but I might have done the same, valesse thy gracious goodnesse had pre-uented mee, O Lord my God, and mercifull preseruer.

But of thy goodnes, O Lord, when I have flipt, and finned, thou hast alwayes reserved in mee (since the time that I truely

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truely knew thee) the feeds of thy spirit, wherby I have done that I would not, being overborn by the rebellions of my curfed nature, and yet even that with manie reluctations and penitencies, having had a strugling before, a feare therein, and a remorce afterward.

Such hath beene thy goodnesse, O Lord, vnto me, to smite mine heart, to enlighten mine eyes, and to make mee not to rest, vntill I had gayned againe my peace, and reconciliation in Christ.

Yea, when I have done many things against the light of mine owne con-

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science, notwithstanding the good motions, and checkes of thy facred Spirit, not of infirmity onely, but of purpole, not for a short time, but of long continuance, even by relapfing very often into manie of them after purpofes, promifes, and vowes made against them : and that which is worst of als when I thought thee, O God, fuch an one as my felfe, then I fay euen then thou didft reach forth thine helping hand, and lift my feete out of that mire, and didft order my goings.

Now therefore, O Father, feeing it hath pleafed fed thee to set these things before mine eyes, I see how vgly and deformed I am, I came to thee good God to be reformed, and hope to bee transformed by thy Spirit, to pertake of the denine nature, and in some measure or other to bee made conformable vnto Christ my Sauiour.

And building my most pretious faith vpon thy promises in the remission of sinne. I seare not, not that I have not sinned, but because my Christ Iesus hath not sinned, therefore I seare not.

In whose name, merit, and mediation, llye at

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the gate of thy rich mercie, and intreate for thy promife, for thine oath sake which thou swearest voto Dauid a sinner, and for the passions & grieuous sufferings of my Lord lesus, to forgine all my sinnes past, and present; yea, and good Father graciously preuent them to come.

This I begge, this I craue with all the bowels of mine affections, my flesh trembling, mine eye watering, my foule grozning, and all the strings of mine heart enlarged, saying, O wretched man that I am, who shall deliuer mee from the body of this death?

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O my God, thou art my delinerer, and the lifter vp of my head, for Christ his fake seale my foule a pardon. What paffed is, good Lord forgiue, and make mee better cre I dye. Let this day Saluation come vnto my house. Let this day my foule rejoyce in a true and vofained conuerfion, and in encreafe of thy fanours. Gine me a portion of grace to bee good in my felfe: Giue mee ability, and a readinesse to doe good to others all my life, fo shall I praise thy name, fing Hymnes of my deliuerance vnto thine honour: comfort and conuert

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uert others vnto the glorie of thy grace, and vtterly abandon the rages and furies both of the world, the fielh, and the deuill.

And good Father, when any glauncing, or suddaine thought sugge-Red to my minde by Sathan, feeketh to wound my foule, let it as fuddainly vanish away, and fend it backe to hell whence it came, that it may neuer trouble or disease mee, but that I may affure my felfe, that as long as I giue no confent thereunto, it shall neuer bee imputed vnto me for finne.

Graunt me, fweet Fa-

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ther, a pure heart toward my neighbour; fill mee with holy cogitations, and motions of the spirit, and helpe mee in all the consticts I shall sustaine, against the enill affections, and lusts of the steel.

Graunt me, O Lord, to live in thee a quiet life, to dye a comfortable death, to rife in the refurrection of the iuft, give mee a publique acquittance in the day of iudgement, and crowne my soule with immortality in thine eternalikingdome.

Say voto my foule, and now fatisfie it, that thou wilt euer bee my

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Saluation, both in life, and death, and renue thy mercies vnto meetuery morning, and reflore them enery night: That the glory may redound to thee, O my Father, to Iesus Christ thy deere Sonne, and my Sauiour, and to the holy Ghost my gracious comforter, three persons in existence, one onely God in Essence.

As it was in the beginning of the world, is now, and euer hath beene ouer all the world, in all Nations and Countries, among all faithfull ones in thy Church, and shall bee continued after this wretched world.

world, is ended in that enerlasting world of Angels, and Saints in the beatificall view, and presence of Iesus Christ his gloristed bodie for enermore, O let the faithfull witnesse in heauen, say Amen. So be it Lord Iesus, Amen, and Amen.

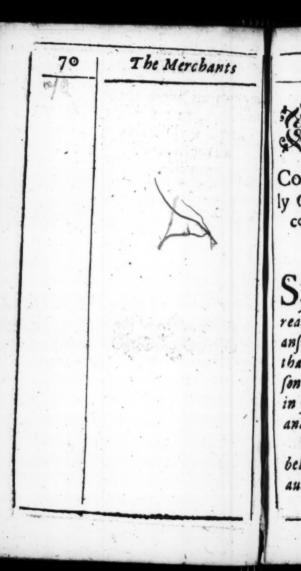
In confident assurance now built upon thy promise, that according as thou are faithfull, and inst. so thou wilt undoubtedly performe. I rise from my knees, and settle my selfe to the affaires of this day in my calling, euer groaning, and sighing in mine hart on this manner: O that

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Consider these holy Oracles before the confession of your most precious Faith.

CAntific the Lordin Dyour hearts, and bee ready almaies to give an answere to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekeneffe, and reserence.

With the heart wee Rom. 10.10 beleene to righteoufnes, and with the month wee con-

Tim. 6,13

confesse to Saluation.

Let us be alwaies ready to witnesse after the example of Christ, a good confession, albeit it be even before Pontius Pilatc.

I Tim. 1.5.

Now the ende of the Commandement is Charitie out of a pure heart, and of a good conference, and of Faith unfained.

Ponder these sayings in your heart with silent, yet instant groanings after encrease, and soundnesse of Faith, and then say.

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A Confession of Faith, as it is raught, and learned out of the Apostolical Nicene and Athanasian Creeds:

Artic. I. I

Confesse before thee, O concerning, and ener-louing God, and most mercifull

and gracious Father, that it is of thine onely gift, and goodnesse,

E that

Rem. IO. IO.

that with mine heart I believe to righteonfies, and with my mouth I confesse to Saluation.

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For thou art my God, and my Lord, and I will not heare either Father, or Mother, or Brother, or any against thee

my God.

Who albeit shou didnate love all mankind: yet I owe thee, O my God, all I have in my felfe, and without my felfe, as if thou hadft loved me alone, and hadft given thy felfe onely for me in Christ.

A. 20.11.

Who also hast said. I ascend to my Father, and to your Father, to my God, and to your God, and

and this imboldneth me. Omy Lord, to thinke. and to fay I believe to for cuer.

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Belcene

Not as the Denills. who beleeve and trem- lac. 2.19. ble: for I beleeve. O my God, and an ioyfull having exultation in my

heart, and exaltation to thee in my Spirit.

Neither doc I beleeve by fits and flashes, or for a time, but by beleeuing I feele in my heart the vnípeakoable fanours of thy grace to flow, as an influence into my foule, and to fettle my refolu-

tions for euermore. Nei-E2

Mat. 13,20

Neither doe I careto be able to remove mountaines by my faith, with out any Christian Charitie in mine heart.

But furely, and certainely to know in my minde thy goodnes, and good will toward mee grounded upon the truth of thy free promise in Christ, and sealed in my heart by the holy Ghoft

Out of which bleffed affurance all the wicked of the world shall neuer flout me, nor any, nor all the powers of darkneffe shall euer cause mee to doubt of the least iote. or tittle thereof.

For it is eternall life to know thee to bee the only

onely very GOD, and whom thou haft fent, Iewith Cha-

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Who can then doubt, O my God, having not onely thy Promise and thine Oath: but also Christ Iesus given for vs, and to vs, and thy blessed Spirit; assuring our hearts that wee beleeuing, are thy somes and daughters.

In God.

Therfore, O my Lord,
I believe in thee my
God, not believing only
of thee in all the truth of
thy Word, nor believing onely to Thee, that
what thou faye is most
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But also I beleeve in thee which is more, O my G O D, and wholy, firmely, fastly, and constantly doe trust, stay my selfe, & relie upon thee, going into thee with mine whole affections, louing thee, and beleeving to bee made a perfect member of thee.

For I beleeue Paul, I beleeue Peter; but O my GOD, I beleeue not in Paul, I beleeue not in Peter, but in thee, thee onely who haft an etermal Being, and art one onely God.

Who art the Lord, the Lord ftrong, mercifull.

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and gracious, flowe to anger, & of great goodneile, and truth, referuing mercie for thoulands, forgining iniquitie, transgression, and finne.

So conflant in thy truth, that one word thereof paffeth all the truth of men and Angels: fo wonderfull in thy wifedome, that thou canst oner-reach all the wiles, wills, and malice of men what soener.

Wherefore I thy feruant and votarie, beleeve that thou canst end all my troubles, breake in peeces all the practifes of wicked ones; detect the most fecret flanders,

E 4 and

and punish them; give mee thy feeble one true contentment in the very midst of vexations; wipe all teares from mine eies, and all forrowes from mine heart, as a tender hearted Father.

The Father.

For thou, O my God, haft fent forth the Spirit of thy Sonne into my heart, whereby I crie Rom. 8.15. Abba, Father, and it hath taught mee to worthip the Vnitie in Trinitie, and Trinitie in Vnitie.

Not curiously, O my Father, discussing this mysterie, but humbly adoring it in all humili-

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tie, for I cannot thinke of one, but the glorious light of three shineth about me.

Neither can I againe thinke of three, but my heart is traightway reflecting vpon one; not deniding the Substance because three, nor confounding the persons because one.

But acknowledging, O holy Father, three in one, and one in three, the Gloric equall, the Maicflie coeternall: but how it is, O righteons Father, flesh and bloud cannot conceive, because the heart of man is too too little to receive it.

Yet it hath pleased Es thee thee, O heavenly Father, to shadowe this great Being of thy selfe the Creatour, in some fort of resemblances in the Creatures.

In the Rainebowe I for the fubiliance there of, and many colours therein, these distinct, and severall colours are but one Rainebowe: so all three persons are but one God.

In the bodie of the Sunne are Light, Brightnesse, Heate; three dislinet Powers, yet but one Sunne.

In mine owne minde, are Memorie, Vnderstanding, and Will, three distinct Faculties, yet but ther,

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but one Minde.

Adam, Eur, Serbhad one, and the fame humane Being, or Effence; yet in their manner of existence they are dimers, Adam of the Earth, Em of the Rib, and Serb of the seede of man.

In all this, O my Father, I feeke not fubtilly to explore this enconceincable my flerie; but I humbly adore it, and nost havely implore thy Maichie rolooke in mercie upon the weakenes, and misery of thy feruant.

It is sufficient for me to know, that there are three which beare re-

cord

1 10.5.7.

cord hereof in heauen, the Father, the Word, and the Spirit, and these three

are one.

It is enough for mee to remember, that three were present at the Baptisme of my Sauiour, a voyce from the Father in heaven. Christ the Sonne

10.3.16.17.

heauen, Christ the Sonne in the river of Iordan, and the holy Ghost descending vppon him like a Done.

It is comfort to mee, vnspeakeable to knowe that I was baptized in the name of the Father, Sonne, and holy Ghost, and that I am assured, that the glorious Angels in the triumphant Church, sing to this thy

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facred secret Trinitie, Holy, Holy, Holy, in their perfect Holinesse.

I beleeve therefore, O my God, that thou onely art the Father of my Christ by nature, and eternall generation, the Father of all thine Elect, by the especial Grace of Adoption, and the Father of all men, and all thinges as they respect thy Power.

And to mee poore worme, nothing is so sweet, as this name of Father, which when I once conceined by faith in mine heart, O how was I comforted in thee my God.

For now I am affured,

that thou, O my Father, louest mee as thy childe, defendeft mee as thy childe, careft for mee as thy childe, and correctest me asthy childe, ever in love, and for my good.

What should I feare then? Thou art my Father , I am thy childe, I cannot A shall not forfake thee, thou can't not, thou wilt not forfake me, nor fuffermee eicher cotally, or finally to fall from thee, O my mole mercifull Father.

O how my heart leap. eth for ioy, when I think

of the words of Christ my Saujour, where hee faith, that this wor'd

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shall know, that then, O Father, louest mee, as thou loueft Chrift.

Me, I fay, euen mee and all other thy beleening children , as thou loueft Christ.

Almighties

beleeue therefore that thoumy GOD art Almightie, to doe what thou wilt, not by fuffering what thou wilt not, for many thinges thou fufferest to bee done by thy concealed wil, which in thy renealed will shou wouldeft not:

Neither wilt thou do, O Father, what thou canft, for thou canft

bring

bring suddaine destruction to the world, but thou wilt not.

gels speech, which saith, With thee, O my GOD, nothing is impossible, and thy Sonnes speech my Sauiour Iesus, that all things are possible with thee, O God.

Yea, I beleeve thee, O my Father, to be Almightie, able to do what thou wilt, and wilt doe what thou promifest.

Thou haft promised,
O my Father, to saue my
soule, and thou wilt doe
it; wherefore I beleeve
all my sinnes cannot destroy my soule, if I hate
them, and leave them, or

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give no full confent vnto them, neither can all the deuils in hell hinder this thy Power and Will.

If the world conspire against me to make mee poore, yet I am affured not to want.

For Heauen, and Earth, Men, and Angels, shall doe for mee what thou wilt O God, and Father Almighty.

If the World rage against thee, or thine, I am not afraid O Father, for I am fure thou art Almighty, and when thou wilt, in a moment canst raine vpon the wicked fire, and brimstone; storme, and tempest, that the World may

may ring of thy Judge.

Whatfocuer therefore I pray for, I doe it, O my Father, without doubting, ftaggering, or wanering; for thou art. Almighty to doe what thou wilt, and wilt what thou haft promisfed.

Pfal. 23.

Though therefore if should walke through the valley of Death, yet will I not feare, because thou art with me; thou I say mine Almighty God, and Father ener able, I say ener to same whom thou wilt from all dangers of Man, and Denill.

And what a fweet thought of love, and thankndge.

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thankefulnefle is kindled in my heart, O my Father wate thee, when I call to minde thine almightines, which mighteft haue reichted mee. when I was eleded. and mightest have made me a Toade, a Toade, I fay, or fome other vglie creature, when out of thine exceeding Mercy, and love, thou madelt me after thine owne fimilitude, and likeneffe.

O how the remembrance of this thine Almighty goodnesse, and good will doth comfort my feeble foule, O my Father, and daffeth out all those fainting, and fearing fancies which I weake weake creature am sub-

For I am affured that thou my father, canst turne the harts of Kings, and Princes vnto me, if thou please, thou canst affwage the maliee of my foes, bleffe mine endeanours whatfoener I fet mine head to aduife, or mine heart to refolue, or mine hand to doe, and that no harme shall happen vnto me, or mine, by man, or denill more then thou wilt fuffer, or permie for mine especiall good.

O my Father, I trust I shall never abuse thine Almighty power either to presumption, or bold-

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nesse, but alwaies in my prayers looke vp vnto it as to an holy oracle, and in my distresses either of foule, body, or state, flye vnto it asto an impregnable Citie ofrefuge.

Maker of beauen, and of earth.

For thou O my God, art the Creator both of Heauen, and of Earth, and of all things visible and invisible,

Yea, most gratious Creatour, I verely beleeue the invisible things of thee, by the Creation of the World Rom. 1. 20. which I doe fee; euen I beleeue thine eternall

Power

Power and Godhead, understanding them by the things that are made.

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Asthey therefore who are weake eyed, and yet defire to beheld the glorions Sunne doe fix their eyes in water, that fo with more case, and lesse perill they may delight themselves with the same.

Euen fo I righteous Father, being not able to behold with my tender, weake, and feeble eyes of my Faith, that light of thine in which is no darknesse, desire to see, behold, and viewe thee, O my God, and my Lord in thy most glorious workes.

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For thou onely, O Lord , didft make all things of nothing, and canft at thy good pleafure bring them againe to nothing.

Thine Almighty hand O my God, and none but thine hath created Angels in heaven, and worms on earth, as migh ty in thefe, asin thofe.

For al Angels, all Men. and all Deuills cannot make the leaft, or most despisable creature, nor hang one leafe upon a tree, nor yet cause the least graffe to grow.

I beleene, O my good Father, that the workes of thy Creation, are thy large Epiftle weitsen in

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great Capitall letters, to the end that every fimple foule that cannot reade. may notwithstanding spell, euen as in a Shep.

heards Calendar, Ploughmas Alphabet, or ABC, that thou art a most glorious, and a most graci.

ous God.

dren.

Yea, bleffed GOD, I beleeue that not onely the things which I fee, tafte, and handle, are createdby thee ; but also the thinges which I doe not see, and all for the good of thy chil-

As thine Angels to haue charge ouer mee, and to pitch their Tents round about me, whiles

Heb. I. vlt. Eph. 6.11.

P[al.91.11

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I am in this world, and thine Angels and Saints to bee fellow Cittizens with mee in the Burge. ship of our inheritance in hearen.

I feare not then, O my God, what he Creature can doe vnto mee, for thou art ouer the worke of thine hands, as the Potter is ouer the clay.

My heart therefore is full of most sweete assurance, that thou my God wilt neuer leaue me destitute, who hast taken fuch care for me before I was borne, to prouide for me fuch goodly creatures on earth, fuch glorious creatures in heauen. I.

I say therefore estsomes vnto my pensiue soule, O my soule, it is impossible for this good GOD, thy Creatour to forsake thee, he cannot, he will not, for he careth for thee.

His good Angels shall gard & guide thee, euilt Angels shall not be able to hurt thee, O my soule, bee not troubled, nor heavie. Hath not thy God made his Angels ministring spirits, sent out for the good of those

Nay, O my Go, I verily beleeue, that rather then I should euer faile of thy help, the glorious Starres in the fir-

which shall be faued?

mament

Heb. I. vlt.

mament shall fight for mee in their courses as thou hast ordained: seeing also thou hast made the fowles of heaven, the sin the sea, and the cattell upon a thousand hills, to bee meate for

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mine hungry stomack.

I believe also, O Father, that the fire shall never burne me, nor the ayre infect mee, nor the water drowne mee, nor the earth swallow mee vp, without thine especial providence.

For all things that are done vpon earth, are ordered by thee, for thou gouernest the greate things, thou carest for the least things, and di-

F2 redeft

recest all the changes, and channes of the world.

If it bee according to nature, as for the graffe to growe, it is for the vie of man, or for the water to flowe, or for the winde to blowe, it is in their scasons.

If it be aboue nature, as for the dead to rife, as for Rauens to feede Elias, as for the hungry Lyons not to burt Daniell, and as for the Sunne to stand still, as in Iosuahs time, or goe backe as it did in Ezchias time, all are ordered and done by thy finger, O thou Almighty Creatour.

Nothing, O my God, happees,

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happeneth, as the Sonnes of men speak by chance, casualty, or by peraduenture.

For Abrahams Ram caught by the hornes in the bush, Pharehs daughter finding Moses in the flagges, the lots falling vpon Jonas, and Matthias were not chaunces, but all, O my God, was from thy all-guiding, and all-ruling hand.

Where I sit, where I stand, where I lye, where I goe, where I kneele, is not casuall, for thou, O my God, art the knower of mine vp sitting, and downe-lying, thou art about my bed, and about my pathes, and spyest

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out all my goings.

The Whale received not fonas, nor the little Worme did bite the Gourd, nor an haire falleth from any head, nor a Sparrow lighteth vpon the ground, without the direction of the invisible finger of thy sacred Trinitie.

Therefore I resolve, holy Father, that I receive no good, or hart of any creature, but by thine especiall guidance and direction, the good to make mee thankfull, the hurt to make me better, and to walke more warily before thee in the narrow path of life.

Let therefore, deere Father, cd

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Father, whatfoener happen vato me or mine, be it neuer so sower and bitter to the flesh: yet I know and beleene (let the intent of man bee what it will) that it shall in the end worke mine especiall good, by thy most blessed promidence, and care ouer me.

My knees therfore are bowed vnto thee, O Father, and that every day, for the continuance of the fweet influence of thy fauours toward mee and mine, that I may quietly passe the troublesoms sea of this world, and arrive with thee at the last, in the hauen of heavens, to which my

Rom. 8.

fonle doth figh to come, as my Fathers haue done before me.

Artic. 2. And in Issus Christ.

And as I beleeve in thee, O God, and Father: so also I beleeve in Icsus Christ thine only Sonne our Lord, in which name Icsus are contained a thousand treasuries of all good things.

No meruaile then that thy bleffed feruant Paul, vieth this fweet & comfortable name Iesus, fine hundred times (if I have calculated aright) in his Epistles to the churches,

net

not in vaine repetitions and bablings, like the heathen or imperstitious, but to most ferious and most fingular purposes-

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For there is no other name given vnder heauen, whereby wee must be saued. It is thou, it is thou, O sweet Iesus, in whom I beleeue that sauest me, and all thy people from their sinnes.

Wherefore, O Father, I beleeve that my Iesus is able perfectly to save all them that come vnto thee by him, because hee hath made himselfe sinne for vs, when as he knew no sinne; that we might bee the righteousnesse of thee, O God in him.

5 In

Phil 2.9.10

Heb. 7 25.

In affirance whereof, O b'effed Father, he hath imparted and giuen his Spirit, shed abroad in the hearts of his children, whereby it commeth to paffe, that albeit some since even in thy dearest children: yet the holy seede quickneth vs, that sinne neither raigneth, nor rageth, nor roareth in our mortall bodies.

1 Tim.2.5.

Rom.&

A Saujour he is to me,
O my Father, and the
one and onely Saujour,
the onely Master of Requests in heaven, the one
and onely Mediatour betwixt mee and thee, O
my God, for mine eternall reconciliation with
thee, All

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All other waies and meanes denifed and inuented by man, to have accesse vnto thee. O my God, I doe wreerly reiest and renounce, and in mine heart and soule I imbrace only my sweet Saniour fesus.

For I affuredly refolue and believe, O lesus, that thou only art and wilt be to me a lesus, that is, a

True it is, O my lesus, that I have committed that for which I might instly be damned: But

Saniour.

yet O my lefus, thou art not destitute of the meanes and waies to

Nay, it is impossible fweet

fweet lesus, that then shouldest deny thy selfe, or thy name, which is thy selfe; thy name is lesus, a Saniour; and I am assured thou didst seeke and saue me, when I was veterly lost.

1

To thy bleffed and fweet name (therefore O lefu) doe I bow the knees of my Heart and Soule, farre much lower then the knees of my Bodie, beleeuing and affuring my felfe, to be bleffed thereby for ener.

Chrift.

For thou my lefus art also my Christ, annointed with the oile of gladnesse. neffe, to be my King, my Prophet, and my Frieft.

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My King, not of this world, but of that to come, yet in this world, ruling the hearts of Kings, and my heart, my foule, my bodie, and my all, yea, ouerruling mine iniquities and transgreffions, that they get not dominion ouer me.

The Scepter of thy kingdome (O my Christ) is thy pure and blessed Word, a scepter of righteousnesse, making me loue thee O fesus Christ, and whatsoeuer is good, cansing me to have the euill, and it is powerfull to preserve me from enercy cuill way.

My

Pfali 19.

Pfal.45. Heb. I.

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My Prophet, I acknowledge thee, O my
Chrift, for thou hadft the
Spirit put vpon thee
without measure, and
wast therefore Annointed therewith, to preach
and prophecie the glad
tidings of the Gospell to
my Soule, to heale my
broken heart, and to
cure my brused mind.
I resolue therefore to

heare no other, but only to harken and gine care to thee O my Christ; for a voice came from Heauen, proclayming this, Heare him, that is thee O Christ, who only hast the words of eternall life, and wilt one time or

other speake peace vnto

me

Mat. 17.

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me thy poore fernant, that I neuer returne to follie.

My Prieft, alfo I confeffe thee to be, O my Christ, yea a Priest for Heb. 6.20. cuer, and the true Bishop of my Soute.

Yea, such an High-Prieft, that didft offer vp in earth for me in the 10.17. daies of thy flesh, strong prayers and supplicati- Hib. 4. ons, with groanes, yea, thine owne most bleffed Bodie didft then offer vpon the Croffe for me, and enen yet in Heaven, Heb. 4, 14 before the Father appearest a Priest for me, and shall dee for ever, to take away my finne, and to

make perfect reconcili-

ation.

I Pet. 2. 25

Therefore I say to my Soule, O my Soule, Christ Iesus is thy King, scare no Powers of darknes, Christ Iesus is thy Prophet, prophecying unto thee the ioyes of Heanen, & Christ Iesus is thy Priest, absoluing thee from all thy sins.

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His only Sonne.

I confesse, and beleene this my fesus Christ, to be thine enely Sonne, O my God; for though thou hast other Children by adoption and grace, yet he alone is thy Soune by nature, thy only begotten Sonne, of the same substance and glorie with thee.

Where-

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Whereby I see thine vnspeakeable lone (O my Father) in that then didst not spare so incomparable a lewell, but didst give him for me, that I might be saued.

Our Lord.

Whom I acknowledge to be our Lord, to
whom all Power is giuen in Heauen and in
earth, and to be my Lord
in particular manie
waies; namely, my Lord
by Creation, my Lord
by Reception, my Lord
by Mediation in heauen,
& my Lord by Gonernment ouer me on earth.

Therfore, neither feare

I Sathan, Sinne, Death, Tyrant, or any other Power, for my Lord, in whom I beleeue is greater then all.

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I shrinke not to heare of death, thou O my Lord Christ hath van-quished it; I dread not the thundring of mortalls, I know whem I have beleeved, it is thou O my Lord and my God.

Artic. 3. Which was conceined by the Holy. Ghost.

VV Hole Incarnation, to mine vnspeakeable consolation I bele ue and consesse, thinking & speaking thereof, with with all renerend, meek, and modest consideration.

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For it requires, O my God, a cleane heart to conceive, and a pure mouth to speake of this great, and incomprehensible mystery of thee my God to bee maniested in the sless.

Who art my Christ Iesus, cuen God of the substance of the Father before all worlds in thine eternall generation, and yet Man of the substance of the Mother borne in the World.

Made of the feede of Danid according to the flesh, but declared in all power to be the Sonn of

I Tim. 3.

Rom. 1,3.

God

God by the spirit of Sandiffication, and Resurretion from the dead. th

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Not vnlike the glorious beames of the Sunn which are not polluted with any thing they shine vpou; nor thy sacred Dietie O my Lord, any whit blemished, or diminished with the purity and holinesse of thy most holy Incarnation.

Borne of the Vigine
Marie.

confesse that thou wast borne of the blessed Virgin, that the Seede of the Woman might break the Serpents head, and

Gen. 3.

that thou, O Lord, mightest be Emanuell, which Mar. t. is, God with vs men.

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I neuer thinke therefore, O my Lord, that there can be any imperfection, where the Sandification of the holy Ghost is fully, I cannot fay there is any impossibilitie, where the prefent Power of God is working, I neuer deeme

fulnesse of the Diery is. For thou O my Lord, wast bo: n of a pure Virgin by the comming of the holy Ghost vpon her, and by the Power of the Almighty ouershadowing her.

of any frailtie where the

Which bleffed Virgin

I beleeue, and confesse to bee the Mother of the my God, who before, in, and after thy sacred birth was, and continued to death a most pure and immaculate Virgin, a Prophetesse in Earth, a Saint in Heauen: yea, the windowe of heauen, through which, it pleased the light of the world, to lighten such as sit in darknes, and in the shadowe of death.

Therefore my soule doth magnific thee, O my Lord, for this thine especiall and vnspeakeable soue, who wast born for me.

That thine innocencie, and perfect holinesse. hid in bo

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neffe, might couer, and hide all my finnes, wherin I was conceined and borne, that they may nener come in fight and re- Pfal.32. membrance before thee my GOD, to doe mee hurt.

Contented therefore I rest, O my God, with what estate and condition soeuer it pleaseth thee to fend, for thy wifedom knoweth what is fit for me, thy Power can bestowe it, thy goodnesse

Artic. 4. Suffered vnder Pontius Pilate.

Further, I befeeve and confesse, that thou,

O my Lord, didst suffer both in body, and soule, both in life and death, the wrath of God kind. led against mee for my sinne.

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To the end that by that suffering of thine, thou, O my God, mightest deliuer from deserued Damnation, my soule and my body, and purchase for them enerlasting Peace.

Therefore I know by

this, that the throane of Grace lieth open vnto me, and that I may boldly come vnto it to receive mercie, and to find grace and fanour in all times of neede.

My most pretions faith feeing,

Heb. 4.15.

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feeing, and perfectly beholding the Scriptures to bee falfilled in this. That thou my DEord fhouldest for my fake be delinered to the Gentiles, fuch an one as was that Pontins Pilate , 2 Indge in Turis, vader the

Romane Cafar , who then ruled when the Scepter was depatted, and the golden Crownes were taken from the

heads of the Kings of Idle and all the Podabal

Was crucified.

I beleeue also & confelle, that thon whom my foule loueth; was mailed on a Croffe ae Torn falent

and as thou didft take pon thee the shape ofa. feruant : fo alfo for my Take didft yndergoe the hame of a fernant in

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that feruile death and fufferings on as cart soil

For thou wast made a curle for me, to redeeme my foule and body from the Curse of the Law, in which fufferings thou wast not ouercome, but most viceriously didst triumphouer Sin Death. Hell, and all the Powers of darkpeffe.

Dead.

Yet didl thou O my God; die far mes and in thine extremitie dieft cry,

cry and yell for me, that the found thereof should ever bee lowder in the eares of my Father in heaven, then the bellowings of my finnes on earth.

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So that now I see, and know by my most pretious faith, that when I shall die, I shall passe from sinne, and that death is no punishment, but a great blessing, fauour, and mercie vnto me.

And buried.

Neither doth the horrour of the graue affright
mee, for I believe that
thou, O my Lord, wast
buried for mee in the
G 2 graue,

grave, as Ionas in the Whales belly.

And as the rage and furie of the Sea ceased, when fonas was cast into it: so I beleeue that the wrathand displeasure of my God was stayed and appeased, when thou my Lord wast layed in the grave, and thy death as sured to all men.

He descended into bell.

Furthermore, I belecue that the humane,
and reasonable soule of
thee my Lord seperated
from the body, yet sub
sisting in the Deitie, did
descend into bell, there
to prevaile and triumph
against

against Damnation.

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For on earth, O my fweet Sauiour, thou broughtest it to passe that sinne should be condemned, on the Crosse that the Curse should be abolished, in the Grane that Corruption should be abandoned, and in hell that death, even the second death should be damned for ever.

Therefore I fay tomy foule, O my God. Soule thou must beare the crosse of my Christ, before thou canst weare his Crowne.

And without doubt, O my foule, for Christ Ielus his vnknowne forrowes and fusterings, felt

G₃ for

for thy fake; albeit they are not fo diffinctly manifested vnto thee, hee will haue mercie vpon mee wretched creature, and will afforedly face mce.

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Artic. 5. The third day bee rose againe from the dead.

For albeit, that thou my Lord didft humble thy felfe, and becammest obedient vnto that cruell death: yet I beleeue and confesse, that thou didft rife again the third day, according to the Scriptures.

Cor.IS.

And that thou wast feene of Cepbas, then of

thy twelve Apostles, and after that of moe then five hundred brethren at once.

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With whom allo afterwards before thine Afcention thou didft peak, eate, and connecte, for the space of forty dayes, shewing vnto Thomas thy pierced hand & file, that he, and all other thy chil frent, might not bee faithfull,

To beleene, O my Lord that thou didft die, is no great matter, for both vibeleeulug lewes, and prophane Pagans will fay as much, yea, all the wicked ones in the world; but to beleene that thou my Christ didft

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rife againe, is the Chrifrians Peculiar, and the locke and key of all Religion.

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For now I know, and am affured, that death is swallowed up in victory, Death hath loft his string, and the grane is

Rom. 4.25. vanquished, Christ, my

Christ having died for my sins, and rose againe for my Instification.

Yea, G my sweet Icsus Christ, I beleeue, and
confesse, that thou hast
performed a full Iustification for me, infomuch,
that if our finne had remained vnsatisfied for,
and vntaken away: O
Christ my Sauiour, thou
hadst neuer risen again.

But

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But Christ, my sweet lesus Christ, is risen from the dead as the first fruits of the dead: & as I beleeue that he is risen: so also I vndoubtedly beleeue & confesse, that those which sleepe in Iesus, will God bring with him in the end of the world, to a most glorious Resurrection, and Glorisication.

In this world therfore my Saniour Christ will make me walke in new-nesse of life, that having my part, and portion in the fast resurrection, the second death shall never touch me.

I Theff.4.

Ap0e: 26.

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For I beleeve & confesse, that I esus my Saujour is ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives, his Disciples beholding and looking

rpon bion.

For it was ordained of God, that he must first suffer, and then enter into glary: Thou didst en-

ter (O my Christ) into glory for, & of thy leife, but thou must suffer for mee, that I also might thereby enter.

For if O my Lord God thou hadft entered any other ways but by suffe-

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Math. 16.

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Mat. 28.6.

Sepulcher, faying, He is not here; albeit thou hadft them a glorified body.

Yet, O my Christ, I beleeue not any seperation of thine wnited natures, but that the one hath a larger extension then the other.

For the Sunne, and his beames be neuer seperated, yet the body of the Sun is not enery where, where the beames be.

Mine eye and my fight are never seperated, yet my seeing gooth, and reacheth surther then the substance of mine eye doth.

As therefore, O my Christ, the waion of na-

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tures in thy person, gives not a Being enery where to thy bleffed body ; fo I beloeue that the difference of place takes not away nor impeacheth thy true voion, mein.

I say therefore to my soule, Comfort thy selfe, O my foule my Christ is ascended into heaven, to make intercession for me, and I verily beteene that by him my fleth and nature is poffesfed of heaven already, and I shall in mine appointed time follow him thither, and abide, and line with him there for euer.

Ascend therefore thither, O my foule, in thought, will, and defire, cuen

The Merchants 134 even to the place that a Heb. 13. bideth, fighe to be closthed with our house, 2 Cor. S. which is from heaven. and with to bed loofed, and to be with our fweet Saniour Christ And fitteth at the right band of God the Father Almighty Where thou , O my Christ, ficeest at the right hand of the Father, in Eph. 1.20. the heavenly places y far about all Principalitie, and Power, Might, and Dominio, & cuery name that is named, not onty in this world, but in that alfo which is to comer bas, law, and somos

In fuch fort doe I beleeue, that then O my
fweet Chrift, whom my
foule loueth, doft remaine as my most carefull and powerfull intercessour, to whom I may
with comfort and confidence euer refort, assuredly knowing that thou
O my Christ, are both
willing and able to help
me in all my distresses.

Able hee is, O my fonte, for to that he might give gifts wate men, and willing he is, for that he is our head, and the head neuer abideth the hurt of any member.

The windes and waters obeyed thy will O

Christ,

The Merchants

Christ, when thou didst time on earth in infirmitic and obscurity, and the dinels trembled at thy Power.

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Power.

And shall I think then
O my soule, that any
enill shal burt me, which
my GOD for his glory,
and thine especial good,
shall suffer to happen.

No, no, my foule be firong amidft the waves of woe, for he thy Sau-our Ielus is with God, who will affuredly helpe thee in his appointed time.

Artic

Obeyed thy will O

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Artic. 7. From thence be shall come to judge both the quicke and the dead.

A Nd I constantlie hold my felfe affured, that thou, O my deare Saujour, wilt one day come againe bodily in thine owne appointed time, with Mai estie, and great glory, to render to enery man according to his works.

Pronouncing to thy children, that in this world have ferued thee, & endured many wrongs, a most cofortable Come ye blessed, and to the wicked that have done what they list in pride & boldnesse,

Ind: 14.9

Mat. 24.30

Math.23.

neffe, a most dreadfull Woe & Goege curfed. I fay one day thou wik come O my Saujour, for thou my GOD hast appointed a day, wherein thou will midge the world by that man Iefus my Saniour; of whom thou hast given evident testimonie in raising him from the deader, amit bet But of that day and Mar. 13.32 houre, I beleene no man knoweth, no not the Angels; for if the laft day bee hidden, then can no mantell, which shall bee the last day but one, and if not that, then not that which is the last but two, and fo forth of the The

The Merchants

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The place of thy Indgment, O God, I beleeue thall bee the Ayre; For the Dead shall rise first, and then wee also which line, and remaine shall be caught vp with him in the Cloudes, to meete my Christ, and Saniour in the Aire, and so wee shall bee ener with my Lord.

I beleeve also, O my God, that it shall bee a fearefull day, for the Powers of heaven shall be shaken; fearefull for the straight account of every idle word, and of every secret things fearefull for the Accusers of vs in that day; as Saran, the good creatures abufed,

Mat 24.30

I Theff.4.

Luc.24.

Math.12.

Mat.25.

poc:14.10,

Mal: 4. Ef.66. Mar.9. Mat.8. full punishments, for it is the drinking of the wine of Gods wrath, and tormenting with fire and brimkone.

A day of darkenesse

blackenes, werne, wee, weeping, gnashing, binding hand and foote, casting into veter darkenesse, a day of trumpet and alarum, heauinesse, destruction, and desolation for enermore.

Therefore I fay often

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o my foule, O Soule ooke vp to the cloudes. and thinke that one day they shall be thy Chariote to conuey thee to meet with thy Saniour lefus in the ayre.

O my GOD, prepare me in body and foule, to be readie for that day, with my wedding garment, which is my most pretious faith in thee, and to have oyle in my Mat, 25. lampe, that I may cheerfully goe foorth at the found of the trumpet, to meet the Bridegroome, my (weet Iclus.

O my God, make my Soule duly way, and heedefully reade those Three leaves which I

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The Merchants

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can neuer read ouer;
Namely, the Red leafe of
my Christs sufferings,
the White leafe of his
mercies, and the Black
leafe of all the plagues
and punishments of the
wicked and damned.

Suffer not my Soule

(O my God) to put off thy care, or to post off this Preparation, for O my soule Now is better than Then, for if we loose our Name, we shall rue our Then, as did the foolish Virgins, that came to late, as did the Glutton that delaied, and as did Esan, that tarried too long.

Artic.

Artic. 8. I beleene in the Holy Ghoft

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DOLI beleene alfo in T the Holie Ghoft, that is the third Person of the facred Trinitie who proreedeth from the Father

and the Sonne, who with thee O Father andwith my Lord lefus Christ is to be worshipped and

glorified, who spake in the Prophets.

Whom alfo I beleeue to fanctific my foule and my bodies and to make them holy as he is holy. Yea, O bleffed Spirit, I beleene and confesse thee to be mine only Comforter in all my 10.14.16.17

distresses, the vadoubted Pledge

The Merchants

Eph:4.30.

Pledge of mine inheritance with the Father, and thou dost seale me to the daie of my perfect Redemption.

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For as I believe that my sweet fesus was given for the price of my Redemption; So also O Father, I believe the Holy Ghost was given for a Pledge and high Price ledge of the love of thee my God and Father.

And because the wicked Spirit, that damned dinett, was thrust out of Heanen into this earth, thou O my God didst fend thy holy Spirit, that I might have a Comforter, where I was sure of

a Tempter od 1 20 mile

.14.16.

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This same sacred Spirit also, O my God, I beleeue, teacheth, re nembreth, raiseth, directeth, and guideth all thy children here on earth; hee washeth that is fould, watereth that is dri; cherisheth that is colde, recourseth that which goeth astray, and doth all in all.

Therefore I say to my soule, O my soule keepe this I ewell, retaine this holy Guest, by having Faith, and by keeping a good Conscience, Faith in the doctrine of the Gospell, and a good Conscience in the Execution of thy duty.

Greeue not this fa-

Eph.3.

Theff.s.

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cred Spirit, O my foule, whereby thou art fealed for Gods: quench not this bleffed Spirit, whereby thou art enlightned; but labour O my foule, to wipe away all impurities, and fith of cuill doings, and fo prepare for this thy God the Paradile of thy minde.

If by finne and vncleanenesse, O my soule, we have hurt our selves: yet blessed be thy sacred Maiestie, O God, there is hope left: This holy Spirit will be recovered by earnest prayer, and hearty repentance, and therefore O my soule let vs cry, and turne toge-

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O my God, reftore vnto mee daily the loy of my Saluation; let mealwayes feele the comfort of thy Spirit againe; let thy good Spirit leade me into the land of righte-

oufneffe.

For I beleeue this holy Spirit will not vtterly be loft albeit fometimes hee absent himselfe from mee, and that juftly for mine impurities. But I that fall, shall rise again; I that have turned away, shall returne againe to thee my God: I that have loft, shall gaine againe the fweetnes, the quickpeffe, the life, the loue. the fellowship of thee

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P(al. 51.

my GOD, Christ Iesus, and thy facred Spirit.

Artic 9. The Catholique Church

I Beleeve also. O my Igod, thine holy Catholique Church, to be one onely albeit dispierced far & nere vpon the sure face of the whole earth in all Nations and Countries, and therefore called Catholique, and it is built vpon the doctrine of the Apostolique.

Which Catholique

Eph. 5. 25.

Which Cathol que Church Lconfesse to bee holy; in respect of the head of the Church, Christ Iclus my Lord

H holy

holy in respect of the most pretions faith of the Church, which is holy in it selfe, and makes others holy, and holy in regard of the holy lines of them which line in the Carholique Church, because they are delinered and made siee, being in the Church from ruling raging, raigning, and

o.

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damning finne.

The triumphant part of this Church, is in heauch with thee, O God, the Militant part is on earth, that in heauch is most perfect, and most holy; this on earth albeit it is not perfect, yet is much more holy then lewes, Turkes, Inside is.

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and

and Heretignes.

Yet the best of wall in this life, receive but the first fruits of thy Spirit, O God, none of viall so perfect, but may stoope under mercy.

I doe believe that this Catholique holy Church cannot, doth not erre, yet I doe not believe in this Church, but I believe that thou my God haft a Church on earth, against which the gates of hell shall not prevaile, nor against any true meber of that Church either totally, or finally to destroy it, or them.

Neither doe 1 belcone any particular Church, as the Church of Engall

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land, or the Church of Rose, to bethis Catholique Churche but I confeffe the Church of England, Scotland, France, &c Ireland; to bemembers of this Catholique Church, and that the Church of Rome hathbeen and may be, and many others befides, all which wholly and habitually confide. red, make one holy Catholique Church. Whofe vadoubted markes, are the Word truly and fincerely preached, the Sacraments rightly administred, and Christian obedience yeelded to the fame, in a religious and godly discipline. 1010 H4

The Communion of Saints.

N which Church alfo I I beleene, there is a Communion of Saints. that's to fay, albeit this Church bee Catholique in all Countries, Times, and places as thou my God pleaseft : yet I beleeue, that all thy children haue a double fellowship, the one with our Saujour Christ, and the fecond one with another, albelt neuer fo far afunder either by fea or land.

Of, and in which holy Communion, and fellowship, I beleeue my

selfe

celle to be a member, the feate whereof, is the Sacrament of the body and bloud, O my God, and is therefore called the Communion of thy blefced bloud.

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ny fe Christian therefore is my name, and Catholique is my surname, Gnristian I am of thee, O my Christ, in whom I beleeue, and Catholique I am of thine holy Catholique Church, which I doe beleeue, and thereby pertake of this blessed fellowship, and Communion of Sainte.

I therfore, O my God, lay to my loule, Reloyce when thou goelt to prayer, to communicate, or

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o do any other holy dutic, for all the Angels of heaven, and all the holy Saintsdeparted with the whole Church of the redeemed on earth, doe in generall pray with thee, partake with thee, and thou with them.

drie to Therforgian Christophen Therford on the control of the con

I Beleene allo in this holy Gathorick church, that there is Remission of linnes, which is only from thee, O God, immediatly, and not from mediatly, and not from any mortall man, Saint, or Angell: It is thou, O Lord, it is thou onely, that puttelt away mine iniqui-

I Zo.2.12.

iniquities for thine owner lake and remembrest them no more.

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that to the Ministers of thy word, thou hast committed the Ministery of Reconciliation, but not the Reconciliation it selfe, for that is the fruit of my Christ his passion.

For whose sufferings sake, I doe beleeue thou O God, wilt forgine me all my sinnes, and that his pretious bloud cleanseth me from all sinne, I say, from all sinne, and that both perfectly and fully, both from the fault and guilt thereof, and also from the punishment due votome for the same.

J

I confesse my sinnes therefore to thee, O my God, and in distresse of my laden conscience, I resort for comfort to others of thy chosen ones, especially to thy Ministers and Preachers, to whom thou hast committed that charge and principledge, to pronounce assurance of my reconciliation, whom mine vn-fainedsforrow, and harty repentance.

And this blessing of Remission of finns, thou onely bestowest upon thine Elect; not upon shorting, sleeping, and secure worldlings, that minde nothing but earth and earthly things.

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Therefore I say to my soule: O my soule, see the forginenesse of thy sinnes, is an article of thy most holy Faith, as certainly then as any, and all the rest are true: so is this yndoubtedly.

Despaire not then, O my soule. Away with it. O hell, O fire, O furie to affright thee, O my poore soule! Be not heauie or deiected. I beleeue in GOD, in I class Christ, and in the holy Ghost, I doubt no white of these articles. I doubt not of this O my soule fo I be penittent.

O Father, graunt me grace to labour firongly in mine holy faith, obe-

dience,

dience, and repentance to breake off; yea, to cut off my finnes, which though it bee done in great weakneffe, and infirmity, yet it tendeth toward, and groaneth after perfection, & is done in fincerity without diftemulation.

Artic. 11. The Refurre-

The Belceue holy Father, I that the wages of finne is death of body, which is temporall, death of louie which is fpirituall, and death of body and foule, which is everyall, which the beauty which is everyall, which the mercifull.

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Yes I werily and vodoubtedly beleeve and my God that this felfs fame flesh wherein I hine, although I die, and come to dust, shall yet at the last day returne againe to life, by the meanes of the power of the Refurredign of Christ my Saviour, and by she meanes of Christ Lesus his Spirit, which dwellesh in O God my Father, 1230 salan garolady & Professor them! that have all toares mipad from mine eyes, all beaninede kont mine hearnward thall hang a elorified body . like to the body of Tolur my Sanigur, according sq shac mighty working of thine,

The Merchants

O'Amighty Chestour, whereby thought chings value all things value to the felte, and le I thall time with thee for euer.

Therefore, O my molt

gracious Father, I fay to my foule: Soule this ar-

my foule: Soule this article is the foundation of all the reft | for it is impossible to but there must be a Refurrection!

O God my Father, to be Almighty, and the land there fore will call at the

world so reckoning in class great accounting day, that the good may bec. rewarded, and the

Micked may bee punit

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I believe also in lesus Christ my blessed Saniour, that he must veterly in that day of the Resurrection, dissolve the workes of darknesse, the furie of Sathan, the rage of sinne, the dominion of death, the bands of the grave, the victory of hell, and the paines of

enerlaiting damnation.

And I beleeve in the holy Ghost, who will not suffer the bodies of his Saints, which are his Temples, and did glorifie him here to bee held of the dust for ever: but I beleeve hee will in the Resurrection of the just raise up, and glorifie those bodies, and make

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The Merchants

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them like the glorious body of Christ.

I beleeue also an holy Catholick Church, with all the priniledges and prerogatines therin, with the Comunion of Sainta, and that all such as have beene subjects heere in earth to thee. O my Lord God, in holy faith and obedience, shall be raised Sainta from their dust, and line eternally in glory.

Attic. 12. The life r-

Beleene in fine O my God, that as thy holy spirit hath bene, and is the principall cause of my

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my most holy faith, and thy bleffed Wordcaught me in the Catholique Church, was, and is the meanes of my Faith. So I also believe, and affire my felfe that cuerlating life shalbe the end, upshot, and mercifall rewarde of my Faith, through Icsus Christ my Lord.

Not that I, O my
Father, can of my felfe
purchase, or merrit such
ablessing; or claime it
as an inheritance, it is
by Donation, and frankalmaign from thee alone,
O my Preserver.

The holy hand that layeth hold on this Deed of gift is my most pre-

Cor.s.

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cious Paich grounded vponthy promife, O my Father, made vnto me in Chrift.

And therefore I am affured that I beginning well to beleene in thee my God, in Ielus Chrift my Lord, and in the holy Spirit iffy Comforter, and continuing well in being a member of think holy Catholike Church,I shall be fure to ende well with enerlattinglife?

Therefore I By to my foule, O my foule, Wee thou leeft have had ! time in the wombe, and now for weight are in the World; I fay stime, for Texped my change, bar I beleeue to live with

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may I my God in life guerlafling, where there shall beno more time.

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And as the life in this world is farre more excellent, and farre more glorious then the darkemelle of the wombe: So I beleeve the life to come doth Superlatinely surpasse in beauty and blisse, at the dainties and delights of this present life, which besooleth so many of vs.

This is that everlasting life which I believe for my selfe, O my God: and the canned Denill, all wavering doubts, or any other misprisson, may as well tell me that I cannot bee affured there

Aprc . 25.4.

The Merchants

there is a GOD, or a Christ, or an holy Ghost, or a Church, as to tell me I cannot bee affored of euerlasting life.

For I am bound, O my Soule, as strongly to believe this Article of my holy Faith, as any of the former; Blesse therefore, O my Soule, Godthe Father, Godthe Sonne, and God the Holy Ghost, for this vnspeakeable mercy of the assurance of everlasting life, when wee must go hence & be no more seen.

And now O my Father Almighty, O my Christ All-mercifull, O my facred Spirit all comfortable, I worship the Trinitie niti niti bleft

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nitie in Vnitie, and V. nitie in Trinicie, and bleffe this holy, bleffed, and glorious Trinitie for making me a member of that holy Church, and a partaker of that Catholique Faith which is taught all men, in al places, at all times, and enduing me with the precious prerogatives thereof, as in my Soule remiffion of finnes, in my body refurredion of the flesh, and in my body and foule life euerlafting.

I beleeue this Church to be but one, O GOD, as thou art, albeit it bee both visible and inuisible, yet not two distinct Churches.

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Churches, but divers in confideration of the fame Church. For I professe it to be wisible in respect of the profession of supernatural verities reuealed in Christ, vicos holy Sacraments, order of Ministry, and due obedience yeelded thereunto, and they discernable that doe communicate therein.

Yet in respect of those most precious effects, and happy, benefits of sauing grace, wherein onely the Elect do communicate. I believe thy Church, O my God, to be inuisible, and they that in so happy, gratious, and desirable things have

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gs ue have Communion among themselves, are not discerneable from on there to whom this fellowship is denied, but are knowne easily ento thee my God

was an Israelite, all men knew, but that he was a true Israelite, in whom was no guile, O my

Christ, thou did on-

In confident affent to this holy and pretions faith of mine, O my GOD, learned in thy Church, I say Amen, afsuring my selfe that all istrue and certaine.

Humbly befeeching thy Fatherly goodnesse, I that 0. I.

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that heereby I may alwayes fanctifie thee in mine heart, be ready to fhed my bloud for this facred lewell once given to the Saints, if it should bee impeached by any, maintaine it in my felfe and to others, against all errours and heresics, and that I may labour to

ther, helpe my Faith in the defects thereof, encrease my Faith in the growth thereof, and when it waxeth feeble or faint, strengthen it against all infirmities, all faults, doubts, consticts, and staggerings, that I may continue found and

have it in me vofained.

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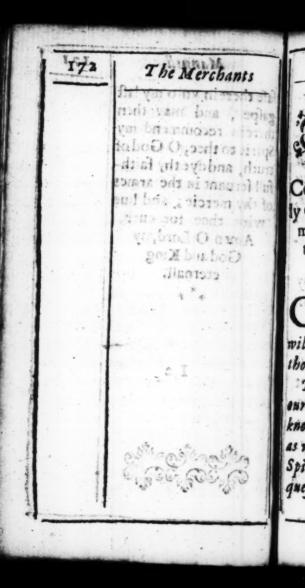
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Consider these holy Oracles before you make your Supplication to the throane of Grace.

Cday of trouble, I will deliner thee, and thou Shalt glorifie me.

The Spirit helpeth our infirmities, for wee Rem. know not what to pray as wee ought : but the Spirit it self makethrequest for vs with sighes,

which

Pfal, 50, 1 5

The Merchants

which cannot bee expressed.

O Lord, though our inequities testific mainst

ler.14.7. Us, yet deale with us according to thy name, for our rebellions are

Luc. 1 1. 12

med against thee.

When you pray, say,
Our Father which are
in heaven,&c.

many, and we have fin-

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Ponder them in your heart with filent, yet instant groanings for true denotion, and then say.



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A Supplication to the Throane of Grace for our selues, for ours, for the state of the Kingdome, and for the Catholique Church of Christ, according to the Lords

Prayer,

The Preface.

O our Father which are in benuen.

Most gracious, and most righteious Father, which I 4 dwel-

The Merchants

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dwellest in the highest beauens, and ruleft ouer all, and yet in more then much mercy, dost vouchlafe to come neere, to be present and assistant vnto all fuch as call voon thee in Christ Jefus his bleffed name.

Looke from thy San. Quary, and feat of Mercie on thy poore children that live here beneath, and lye groueling in our owne duft, begging for thy pittie.

Remember, O oar Father, the couenant which thou haft made with ys thy children, in that pretions bloud of thy Lamb. which in thing eternall decree was thed for vs before

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before the world was made.ooni O , sideit M

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Bor in generall, thouse O God, are the flather of vs all, and in particular, my G O D, and my Father, albeit I bee a wretch, a worme, and vnworthy to looke to heaven, or to goe on the earth, or to breath betweene heaven and earth.

Yet I know, O Father, that thou hearest
pensine & penitent sinners, and leadest a gratious care vato the Supplications of thy Saints,
neither wilt thou denie
vs any thing, that shall
worke for our good to
Saluation.

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O incomprehenfible Maiestie, O incomparable Power, O heanenly Father, firike a dread. full awe of thy felfe into our hearts, that we, who come before thee, and prefent our Petitions vnto thee, may (with fach rencrence as is meete) tender our faites as obedient and humble children, and that thou as a tender hearted Pather mail reflect, and looke downe upon vs in Christ lefus our elder brother, in whom , and through whom alone we can look up to thee.

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Petition 1, Hallowed be

vinderflandia o Tue vs grace, O I heavenly Father, to make more pretious account of thy felfe, O God, which art cloathed with Maiestie and Mercic of thy workes which are Power, Rightcoufneffe, and Holineffe, and of thy Word, which is Truth , Wisedome, and Goodnesse, then of all that we can fee with our eyes, or conceine with our heart.

For thy Name onely is excellent, and the Praise above heaven and earth. O let that great and and glorious Name of thine, be not onely glorified and fanctified in our vnderstanding by faith and knowledge but also in our mouthes, bedies, and whole life.

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O let it be cuer hony to my mouth, fweeter then the hony combet let it bee melodie to my care, more harmonious then the voyce of an Angell, and let it be a lubilize to my heart, more cordial then all the Confections on earth, made by the skill of the Aposthecarie.

Make vs. O bleffed Father, more and more to flume and abandon all and cutry thing, all bus and oin

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and enery person that polluteth, or dishenoureth thy glorious Name.

O Father kindle such a true zeale in our hearts, that we may not endure any prophane Monster, or monstrous Miscreant to speake ill, or amisse of thy gracious Name, or of thy blessed doctrine in our hearing.

Operturne, and overthrowe with thy Power all those Atheists and Libertines, which in these last and worst dayes seek to prophane, blemish, or blot this glorious Name of thine, shining in thy most facted selfe, in thy Word, and in thy meruailous works.

Remoue

The Merchants

Remone good Father, out of our Churches, Courts, Cities, & Countries, all these wicked ones, who with cursed mackes, scottes, taunts, and rejects, deride all Conscience, and flows with more then Turkish madnesse, the obedience and reverence that is given to thy most glorious Name.

Awake, O Lord, and let not these prenaile, who worke distance in the hearts of soo too many against thee, & boast chemsches in their willany, that they have banished thy scare out of so many places.

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These are an wholy seede, the spawne of the Whore, the poyson of Aspes, and they would have all to bee such as they are. They are vacleane, and insect where they come. Remove, O Father, these rockes of offence from among thy choicen people, for thy Name sake.

Let not, O Lord, the lewd and loofe examples which wee behold in the world, with griefe prenaile against vs., to persuert vs., and if thy just wrath hath sealed the Confusion of those that propriane ac positive thy Name; texthembe prophane and sithic still, but

The Merchants

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but letws, O Lord, that fearethy Name, efcape from them , as the bird out of the fitare of the Fowler and or lis out Deare Father, thou halt regiltred our names in thy booke of life: O let these seely soules of ours, that are pend up in the finfull prisons of our bodies, flie to thee inall hearty zeale, and feare thy Name all the dayes of our life. d oew daidw Let vs, O Father, bec alwayes bold to flie ynto the glerious Name, as to arocke and tower of defence in all the affaults of this wicked and wofull world, in all the preffures of our bodies, goods,

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goods, and good name, and in all the conflicts of a rebellious Confeience.

O fixeet Father, make all our houses so many Sanctuaries and Oratories, wherein thy great and mighty Name Iebonah, may bee euer in all due feare, and true reuerence, called uppon in Christ Iesus, who is our life, and only Sauiour.

Petition 2. Thy King-

Devine Maichtic, let thy Kingdom com, not only that Kingdome of thy Power, which cannot be shaken, but that

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that Kingdom of Grace, which wee finfull wretches (as our Fore-fathers before vs) doe often refift: but O facred Maicftie, doe thou fubdue in vs all Power of Sathan and finne, and rule thou, O King of Saints, oner foule and body hart, and minde, word, and work.

Gine vs the meanes, righteous Father, that thou haft appointed, whereby this thy Kingdome of Grace may com vnto vs, and into vs, euen thy bieffed Word, and Sacraments, & make vs. O Father, carefull, and confcionable readers, hearers, and doers of thine Holy will, to the honour

honour of thy great and

glorious Name.

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Feede our Faith, fasten our hope, fixe our lone on thee, O God, I fay on thee, O bleffed Father, that no roling, ouer-ruling, rangling, raging, and roaring finne, may have dominion o-HCT VS.

Bleffe the lobours of thy Seruants in thy Church, that through thee O God, they may enlarge thy gratious Kingdome by thousands, and by millions.

Cast downe O almightie Father, all the Arong holds and fortifications that the Powers of darkneffe fet vp against thee,

either

either in my heart, or in the hearts of others. Thou O Christ, art the stronger Man, beate out, and cast out all vncleane spirits of errour, herefie, and doubtings, that impeach the comming, or binder the Power of this thy Kingdome in vs.

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Reuiue the spirits of thy humble Children, and give life and quickning to such as are contrite in heart, that we may not only see, but discerne also by our most pretious faith, the manuellous thinges that thou hast done for vs.

Make thy Children O Father, not to feare the fmiles of the prophane.

nor

nor the faces of any whose hearts feare not thee, nor yet the godlesse lone of any, that are hinderers of this thy Kingcome to come vnto vs.

But, cause all thy Children O Father, cheerefully and manly to goe
through euill report, and
good report, and all other difficulties, having a
sweet feeting, that we
are voto thee our God,
a sweet sauour in Christ
Iesus, to euerlasting life.

Strengthen all thy Children O Christ, by thy Spirit in the inner Man, and dwell in our hearts by faith, that we may be able in some good measure, to compre-

prehend thy loning and fauing kindnesse to all penitent, weeping, and wailing sinners.

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For we all have been Traitors to thee O heauenly King, and the kingdome of darkenesse will couer vs, and ouerwhelme vs, if thou O King of Sainess dost not

helpe.

In thy great and manifold mercies looke vpon vs, for the multitude of our finnes cry for the multitude of the multitude of the malice of the kingdome of darkenesse and blacknesse, deftroy and cast away thy People, whom thy goodnesse hath made and redeemed.

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Stretch forth that fauing hand of thine O
God, and take vp our
diffressed Soules, that
cleane vnto the dust, that
we may have a tast here,
and a glympse of that
kingdome of thy glory,
of which there shall be
no end.

Petition 3. Thy will be done enen on earth, as it is in beauen.

Ome O heavenly Charlet, come not only unto us with the comfortable found of wordes, but come, O come into us with thy Power and spirit, that thy Will may be done on earth

The Merchants

earth by vs, and on vs, as it is in headen, among the glorious Angells.

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Not our Will O Father, but thine be done, even thy most sacred reucaled Will expressed in thy Word: And thy most secret Will O God be done, which albeit it is secret and hid from vs, yet we are sure is alwaits inst.

Let not our obedience
O Father, vnto thy will
be leprous like theirs,
that vnwittingly, and
not knowing of it, yet
doe thy Will: Nor let
O God, our Patience be
doggifhly like theirs that
knowing doe thy Will,
yet striue and murmure
against

against it, but O deere and d. uine Father, give vs grace to doe the will cheerefully, speedily, and willingly.

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Our owne wills O God, are wicked and peruerle, ener fithence the thoughts of our hearts were enill continually. It is thou therefore O Lord, it is thou only that must worke in vs by thy blessed Spirit, both the will and the deed of thy good pleasure.

It is thou O God of

peace, that broughtest againe from the dead our Lord Iesus, the great Shepheard of the Sheeps, through the blood of the

euerlasting Couenant,

Phil.1.13.

Heb. 13, 21.

that must make vs perfect in all good workes, to doe thy will, and to worke that is pleasing in thy sight, through lesus Christ.

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Be it therefore weale or woe, little or much, life or death, let vs reft contented, and euer (as dutifull Children) fay in our hearts, Let our God and our Father doe with vs, and dispose of vs at his pleasure.

Be they losses, be they crosses, in our bodies, goods, children, neighbours, or whatsoener, be thinges sowre or sweet, lowring nights, or sunshine mornings, decre Father make vs ener

bleffe

blesse thy name with a single heart, kiffe the rod when we know thy will, and vntill thon shewest it vnto vs, let vs leave it to thy sacred and scret wisedome, & wait for the issue, which shall assuredly be ener for our good.

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Neuer giue vs ouer (O holy Father) to feeke to Diuells, Witches, Wizards, or any diuelish meanes, to know times, or seasons, sicknesse, or health, or any other thing that thou haft referued in thine owne Power; but grant vs gratious Father, to rest our felues contentedly, that we may will and wish, nothing but that thy ! K 3

thy holy will aloweth.

We know holy Father, it is impossible for vs while we are cloathed with this vaile of our flesh, to doe thy will, as the glorious Angells in heauen doe: Yet O God, we desire, we loue, we long, yea, we looke to be loosed and freed, that we may be perfect, as they are perfect.

And to this end, we ever groane, and beg of thee in mercie, for a pure and cleane life, for this is thy Will, even our fan-Aification: O pardon herein, for the blood of Iesus all our thoughts, wordes, & workes, traying from thy sacred will.

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To name our offences don against thy blessed will, is impossible, O ho ly Father, for we cannot thinke of them, yet thou knowest them, and with thee is plentious mercie, euen for our secret faultes.

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All the euills that are in the world, proceed O father, from thy bitter roote, because most men set aside thy blessed will, and enerie one is carried away with the liking and louing of their own willes.

But, O Lord, we befeech to give vnto vs the spirits of humble and obedient children, that wee may renounce our

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owne wills, and readily not with lip onely, but with life doe thy will, as doe thy fernants in heauen. ha

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It is thy will, O Lord, that we should labour to crucifie, and mortifie our wills. Giue vs strength therefore, O Father, to beare all contempts and disgraces, with patience, in hope, to take in good part, and with the right hand all the changes and chances of this mortall life; yea, euen with cheerefull and gladfome hearts : and wish olde Ely to fay, It is the Lord, let him doe with vs as pleaseth him.

Let vs, all with Danid hartily

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hartily say: O my God, I am content to doe thy will, yea thy law is within mine heart; and let vs learne, O heauenlie Father, whose submission that was, who said: Not as I will, O Father, but as thou wile.

For wee are assured, that not enery one that saith Lord, Lord, shall come to heaven, but hee that doth thy will, O Father, which art in heaven.

Giue vs grace to bee truly forrie and vexed as was Peter and Dauid, for all those that wilfullie transgresse against thine holy will, and for all those that laughand K4 iest

rest at such as they were, who live to dishonour thy Name, and sleight thine holy will.

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It is thy will, O Father, wee should beleeve in Iesus Christ thy deare Sonne. We doe beleeve, and therefore we speake and purge our sclues with daylie prayer. O Father, we beleeve that we have a legacie in the last will and testament of Iesus, make vs carefull not to loose our clayme, title, and interest therein.

And when that pal fing houre shall come, whe earth must to earth, O make vs strong, deere Father, therein to welcome come thy will, that wee ioyfully may bee deline; red to the fellowship of thine Angels and Saints, perfectly to doe thy will (O Father) in heaven.

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Petition 4. Gine vs this day our daily bread.

Ogiue thy children bread, yet wee confesse our selues vnworthy of crummes, but for thy promise sake, and for thy mercies sake, gine vs our doctrinals bread to seede our mindes, giue vs our sacramentals bread to enclien our soules, and giue vs our vitals bread, to strengthen our weake

1 Pet. 5.7

and feeble bodies, for it is thy good will, O Father, that we should not cast the care of heauenly things onely vpon thee, but also all our care.

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This bread wee begge for, it is ours by Promife, O give it vs, for other. wife wee are not able to get it, and give it vs daily, or elfe it will not bee sufficient for vs: for, O Father, we seeke not the things of this life for themselves, but that having them, wee may the better serve thee.

And when thou giuest vs foode and rayment, O God, cause vs to bee therewith content, yea in what state so ever wee

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are, learne vs, O Father, to beare all by the helpe of Christ.

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We begge not riches, nor fine linnen, nor to fare deliciously enery day: it sufficeth, O Father, that wee bee not chargeable to any, but rather helpfull, for thou hast said, It is more blessed to give, then to receive.

Breake not, O Lord, the staffe of our bread, that ten women bake in one Ouen, neither suffer O Father, the soules of the righteous poore to be samished, O God, thou knowest what wee have neede of, our faith therfore feareth no famine.

Leuis, 26.2

The little birds, O heavenly father, fing sweetly in their kinde, before they seeke for meate in the morning; give vs grace, O God, first to seeke thee, and the righteousnesse of thy Kingdome, and then we doubt not but all these things shall be added vnto vs.

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Gine vs, O Father, mercifull and feeling bowels of pitty, not to eate our morfels alone, but that the fatherles, poore, and widowes, may eate with vs, and that our fleece may cloath them, and their loynes may bleffe vs.

Thou haft fed vs, O Lord,

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Lord, from our youth vp, and with a liberall and plentifull hand, hast blest vs and our Nation with plenty. O Father, touch vs with a true feeling hereof, and make vs hartily thankfull.

Thou knowest, O Father, our number, and our neede of thy mercy, give vs according to our charge, our eyes wayte vpon thee, and we know that thou feedest the Rauens which call vppon thee.

Giue vs, O Father, for the day, and if thou giue vs more, make vs faithfull Stewards, to dispose of rhy fauours to our brethren that neede, that

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Lazarus may eate of the rich mans bounty.

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To these fauours, O Father grant Peace, and quietnesse, temperance, and moderation, that neither fulnesse of bread make vs forget thee, or abuse thy good creatures to drunkennesse or furfet, and let not thy plentifull hand, O Father, which thou in more then much mercy fretchest out vnto vs , puffe vs vp with pride, to forget our selues, or to despife others.

Let vs neuer fay as the custome of the world is, The poore may begge, but firike our hearts, O God, that albeit we have

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now abundance, yet full fore thou can't curse vs with want and beggery for our vnthankfulnesse.

Petition 5. Foreine vs our trespasses, as we also forgine them that trespasse against vs.

Byt what will all the mourishments in the world profit vs, O Father, if with them wee should be accounted as Oxen to the slaughter: forgine therefore, O deere Father, forgine our iniquities, and remember them no more.

We have sinned, and done wickedly, but we confesse, and are sorrie

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for our finnes, and thou remainest faithfull, O Father, to forgine vs our finnes, and thou art inst too, who hast reckoned for them in Christ, and hee hath paid for them, and wee are assured that his pretious blond purgeth vs from all sin.

In this time of acceptation, were power out our hearts to thee, O Lord, and against our selues were consessed our sinne, and shou, OGod, hast promised to forgine the punishment of the same.

O deerest GOD, O fweet Father, what a fauour is this to finfull offendours; that thou forgiuest ginest finne according to the riches of thy mercies.

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Forgine vs. O Lord, our trespasses, truly ours indeede, for nothing is truly and properly ours, but since, shame, and confusion of face, and what emils else our sinus bring downe upon vs.

Our Gardens at the first were full of enery fragrant flower, but now they are ouergrowne with Rue, & haue none, or to little hearbe Grace in them. Roote out, O God, the weedes by the Power of thine holy Spirit, and plant in them sweet smelling flowers, which may be the sauour of

of life vnto life vnto our dying foules.

Our finnes are debts holy Father, binding and engaging vs to an eternall Curfe, voleffe thou shew pittie. We are readie to finke under the burthen of them, Orelease vs. We are ready to bee stinged to death with them, O ease vs, for wee cease not to crie, vntill the heavens ring againe. O Father, forgive vs our debts, that binde vs to the bondage of fo lasting a woc.

O Lamb of Sod, take away the finnes of the world, and thou shalt finde none; there is Mercie with thee, and it is

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ie - infinite, how should wee misse of it? Therefore art thou feared, and thy people saued. O cast our sinnes behinde thy backe, burie them in the bottome of the Sea, couer them, hide them, impute them not for fesus Christ his sake.

Couer our finnes, O deere Father, and thou shalt see none: see them not, and thou wilt not censure them not, and so we shall endure no punishments for them: O take no notice of them, but forgine them freely, O Father, what cuer they have beene against thee, against our neighbours,

Or

or against our owns felues.

If it feeme good to thee O heavenly Father, to lay thine hand vpen vs for our finnes, yet deale not with vs according to out finnes, but let thy roddes and fcourges be fo many Preferua. tiues vnto vs, to keepe vs from future fin, that albeit we are indged, and chastned of thee O Father, yet let vs not be condemned with the world.

Giue vs O righteous Father, meekeneffe of spirit, heartely, fincerely, and vnforcunately, to forgine our brethren, that any manner of way haue

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have offended vs, either in reproachfull words against our good name, or any way against our persons, or in our goods.

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Let vs not say, as the custome of the world is, I forgine, but I cannot forget; nor yet to forgine our brethren by the halues; but O Father, as we desire thy goodnesse freely and frankly, to forgine vs, so grant that we may forgoe all malice, spite, and reuenge, that our corrupted hearts hatbour against those that trespasse against vs.

O Father, let not our mouthes in this Petition curse our schues, nor

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pray against our owne foules, to pull downe thy fearefull wrath vpon vs, for the hardnesse of our hearts toward our brethren.

Make vs know good Father that nothing maketh vs thy children more refemble thee our God, then passing by wrongs, and pardoning offences.

Yea, though more then seuentie times seuen times we are offended: yet, holy Father, teach vs to forgiue, for thou O God, forginest vs our finnes without number.

And if it so fall out oft times, that after all good meanes have been tryed,

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tryed, we must yet goe to lawe with our brethren, O Father graunt vs grace to doe it with charitie, without bitternesse, or enuie.

Wee reneunce O Lord, all trust in man, and acknowledge that thou, thou only O God, forgauest sinne, both in the guilt and in the punishment, and that all the water in the ocean can not purge vs of our sin, nor any other meanes vnder the Sunne, but the pretious red Blood of Icsus Christ our Saui-our.

Surely, O Father, no Man, no Woman, no Angell, no Saint, quick

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or dead, can forgive vs our sinnes: We therefore have no Mother, no Brother to call vnto, but only to thee O Father come wee in Christ, O heare then, and forgive, consider and doe it, O d. ferre not for thy mer-

We are confounded, & ashamed in our selues, once to lift up our eyes unto thee our God, for our iniquities are encreased ouer our head, and our trespasses are growne up to heauen, we cannot stand before thee by reason of our sinne.

Yet wee finke not, O Father, for how should wee misse of thy mercie,

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cie, who hast ordained a godly Ministerie on earth, to pronounce vnto true Peni ut, forgiuenesse of sinne, and we have in heaven with an Aduocate Iesus Christ the righteous, and he is the Propitiation for our sinnes.

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Into many and manifold finnes, we flide daily through our wretched corruption and fraity. but doe thou, O Father, fend vs to such as thou hast appointed to be the lights of the world, that vpon the Confession of our sinns wherewith we are aggreeued, they may declare vnto vs our Righteousnes in Christ, and

and quiet the out-eni's of our diftreffed minds, and trembling consciences, with the fweet drop. ping dewe of thy mercy

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and grace.

In thy abundant kind. neffe, O Father, lift vp thy countenance vpon vs. and albeit our whole life is nothing but a circle of finning, and cry. ing thee mercie; yet let the pretions blond of thy Christ dash out of thy Register, and wash on of thy remembrance all our finnes . for we fear thy judgements.

Petition

Petition 6. Leade vs not into Temptation, but deliner vs from enil.

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And now bleffed Father, being affared that thou hast seated to our Consciences, for Christ his sake, a pardon for all our sinnes past: preuent vs were entreate thee, for the time to come with thy mercie, against all the temptations of the slesh, the world, and the deuill.

Otherwise, O Father, we shall drinke in iniquitie like water, for our fore fathers, haue eaten the sowre Grapes, and the childrens teeth,

which are our finfull felnes, are fet on edge; and if, O Lord, thou fhrowd vs not, we shall yet become most abominable, and filthy, and Sathan that roaring aduersary, will denoure vs.

Wee pray, O Father, Leade vs not into temptation, because nothing is done against thy blessed will, for all thy Temptatations are either of triall vnto thy children, and those are cuer out of thy great mercy, or else they are out of punishment, which proceedeth from thy suffice, which osttimes doth punish sinne with sinne,

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Wee know right well good Father, that thou canst not bee tempted with euill, neither dost thou tempt any man to euill, for all thy temptations leade on, and tend to the probation and triall of thy people: but we, we I say, O Father, are tempted when we are led awry by our owne concupiscence, and so proceede to deadly finning.

Helpe vs therefore, O God, of our strength, against all temptations of the dinell, of the world, and of the slesh, that neither temptations on the right hand, as Prosperity, Peace, and such like, L 3 nor

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nor temptations on the left hand, as ficknesse, pouerty, discontent, or any such like, may the one way make vs to forget thee our heauenlie Father, or the other way cause vs to despaire, and ouer-beare vs.

Wee oft-times holy Father, feele in our felues much dulnesse, doublings, and doubtings, which are grienous tep tations: yet O good God, lesson vs, that as the mother after she hath felt her childe moue, hopeth the best, albeit shee doth not feele it alwayes moue, but when it stirreth weakely, she cheerfully hopeth of greater strength

strength in time.

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er :h So deere Father, after bluftering stormes of shewde temptarions, whereby our Consciences are astonied: make vs expect a more plentisus ime of grace, wherein by thee wee may reniue againe, and bee made linely, lustie, and strong to runne the way of thy Compandements.

O fweet Father, fay to our sad soules, Be not so heavie, or so cast downe in temptation, tarry the Lords leasure, be strong, he shal comfort thy hart, and cast thy whole care upon the Lord.

If it please not thee, O Father, to heare by

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and by: yet wee knowe thou wilt heare vs in thy good time, and helpe vs in all our feares, though for a time our hearts be heavie, and our foules as it were cuen powred out.

Yea, albeit our hearts bee smitten, our dayes consumed in sorrowes, and our bones doe cleane to our skinne, yet O Father, thou wilt not absent thy selfe for ever, but wilt returne and shewe pittie.

Temptations come on a thousand wayes, yes good Father, give vs strength with the shield of faith, and sword of the Spirit, which is thine holy wc

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holy word, to quench all the fierie darts of the deuill.

O good Father, deliuer vs from that euilone the denill. O God deliuer vs wretches from all euill both present, past, and to come. From euill past, that it returne not upon vs againe; from euill present, that it ouerthrowe vs not, and from future euill, least, it triumph ouer vs.

huils wee are fure to meete with all as long as wee are in this world, wher the deuil is as god, ruling & raigning in the children of disobedience: but delinerys, O Lord, from the contagion and L 5 poylon.

poylon thereof, that wee neither talt of the crime, nor paine of curfed cuils.

For if thou, O Father, turnaway thy face from vs in our temptations, we are fore troubled, difmayed, & feared, though but euen now wee could fay in our hearts, Tush we shall neuer be removed.

If it please thee, O Lord, to try vs, to humble vs, or for ought else thy wisedome knowes fir: O Father, doe it in Marcy, according to our strongth, nor about our Bower, that give vs an happy the to beakle to bear it.

Let

Let our triall open our eyes, that wee may fee our owne weakeneffe to reforme vs, but neuer to cause feare aboue faith vtterly to ouerwhelmevs-

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If men tempt vs to euill, O Father, gine vs wisedome to discerne them, feare of thee to defie them, and grace to despite the pleasures of sinne for a season, and to chale rather to be afflicted, and disgraced with the children, that with thee wee may have an everlasting inheritance.

Stand by vs; O sweet Father, that the hellish fiend that so rageth, may want of his will; and all his temptations may

come

come to naught, and let finne euer appeare finue vnto vs, in the vgly form thereof, that the maskes of the deuils delicates deceine vs not. etci

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Preferue vs holy Father, against our owne corruption, and the manifold Temptations therof, our sless, our sless, O Lord, is the rebell, O let it mener prenaile to the working of our woe, and

enerlasting fall.

Wee know, deere Father, that in our flesh dwelleth no good: so that valesse thou help, O blessed God, it will 21wayes rebell, and wee shall die.

Definer vs, Othon eternall

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eternall Creator from that euill, even from all euills, as if wee should name them one by one. Grant this mercie vnto vs O Father, for that red bloud, and heart bloud of Icsus Christ that authone, who never sinned all gainst thee, but obeyed thy sacred Will in all things.

Almost infinite temptations abound in this life, for there is no calling so holy, no place so solitary, but that wee shall finde every where troubles to try vs: but moderate and temper them deere Father, with thine hand of mercifull mitigation, that we may spend

frend our Pilgrimage in thy feare, and ende it in thy fauour.

If thine hand, O Father, afflict vs, O diffresse vs not; if we be in donbt, let not despaire touch vs; if we be perfecuted with easil, O forsake vs not; and if wee bee cast down O Father of sweet mercy, cast vs not away, neither set vs perish eternally.

But through thy might let vs euer conquer, and acuer bee conquered to our finall hurt. O good father; and in our flippings ftay vs vp, and cause our owne cuills (which we by our prenarications call vnto

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vs) to renue our faith & Repentance, and alwaies to occasion vs to looke more narrowly to our steps, that wee slide not away for euer.

The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weake, O strengthen the Inner Man, that we may truely serve thee, O GO D, though in great weakenesse, and much frailty a yet let our service be in sincerity without dissimulation, that weemay fast cleane who thee when life departeth, and cuer line with thee when once it is ended.

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The Perclose.

For thine is the Kingdome.

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Rant theselour humble ble supplications O Father, for thou art our King, & our Soueraigne, and hast all things under thy rule. All enill under it to suppresse it at thy pleasure, and all good to give, and proportion it at thy pleasure to the senerall wants, and necessities of the Saints, according to thine incomprehensible wisedome.

This Land and Kingdome (OFather) wherein we line is (as al the corners corners of the Earth are in thine hand, O blefle our King, his Queene, his Sifter, her Husband, and all their children.

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Remooue the euill from about his throne, his Person, State, and dignitie, plant the good in his Courts, Cities. Churches, and Countries. Strike downe encry fortification that sets vp it selfe against thee O God, and those that seeke thy dishonour O God lay their honours in the dust.

Make our State and Kingdome to flourish, maintaine our peace at home and abroad, that it may bee a Sanctuary

for

for thy great, and glorious name, that thy holy word, and will may in all affectionare defires, albeit not in effect bee done in the territories of the State, as it is done in Heauen amidest thy blessed ones.

Forgiue, O forgiue, and passe by deere Father the sinnes of our King, of our Prelates, of our Peeres, and of our whole Mation.

O let not deere Father our Nationall fins which are great, and grieuous pull downe the vialls of thy wrath vpon our State, but in mercy thinke on vs all O God, and bee gratious

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to the Land, and deliver it from all euill for Iesus Christ his sake.

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ir i, Remember in mercy all rankes, and conditions of men in this our Land, bleffe all Schooles of good learning, all godly fellowshipps, that auncient, and worthy company of Merchant-Aduenturers, the husbands of the Land, bleffe them O Lord, and profper them for euer.

Remember in mercy all the Kingdomes on the Earth that feare, and ferue thee, and all thy Children euery where both by Sea, and Land that are in any forrow, or fadaesse, or that are in

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any fort afflicted either in foule, body, state, orgood name.

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Comfort them O Father that mourne ouer their dead, and bind vp the broken harted, fay to every soule that feeketh thee, that thou art their sure Saluation.

The power and the glory.

For thine is the Power, to doe all this, and much more then we can either thinke or desire, for thy power is infinite, and therefore we doubt not, & it is ener loyned with thy goodnes, and therefore we faint not.

For

For ever and ever. Amen.

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tice O God in Yea, thine is the Power, and therefore thou canst doe it, and thine is the Glory, and therefore thou wilt doe it, in confidence whereof to what my tongue hath fpokens my soule in faith is setled, befeeching thee O Father to heare and haue mercie in reception of thefe my prayers, and praises for all fauours generall, particular, indiniduall, offred vpon the crucified Bodic of my fweet and deere Sauionr lesus, O receine them as an incense out of his hand, that my facrifice c ifice may be g ations and well pleasing whro thee O God, in him, whome with thee O Father, & the Holy-Ghost, we blesse, praise, honour, and magnisse for ener, and ener, one God, and one Lord, our eternal Father, world without end.

Amen, Amen, O faithfull witneffes in Heauen, fay thou Amen, So be it, who my prayers, that fo in a fweet reft of heart, and content of minde, I may rule from my knees, and leave the disposition of all to thee my most

louing and tender harted Father, in Christ Iesus.

Amen.

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Consider these
Oracles, before
you enter into the
Meditation of the
Lords Supper.

Busine himfelfe, and fo tet him ease of that Bread or drinke of that Cup For he that eateth and arinketh unmorthily, shall be guilty of the Bodie and Blood of the Lord, yea he easeth and drinketh Damnation unto himfelfe, in not

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Important confiderations on the
Lords Supper in a sweet
Solidequie with a mans
owne selfe, containing
an holy and Heauenly preparation therevento, a right and
reuerent disposition therein, and thereat, and a
fase and setled resolution thereafter.

 An Holy, and heauenly Preparation thereunto.

Depely confider
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towhat an infinite Maiesty we draw neere: Turne to the Lord we must not, in our ordinary accesse, in this so extraordinary a seruice, and Sacrifice, before we have fearched and tryed our owne waies, as the Prophet speaketh.

Search (I fay) your owne waies, not other mens, to take a view of our owne, what they haue been, and what they now are, and what we purpose by Gods helpe, they shall be hereafter.

And when we have layed them before vs, let vstry them by the touchftone of the Word, whether they be pure and perfeal

perfect, as they should be-

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Yet euen this we ought to doe in our ordinary and Christian department, and fuch a fcrutenie we are to make in our whole life.

How much more then, with a fad and ferious confideration, ought we to drawe fo neere vnto our good God, as we are about to doe, in this holy pertaking of himselfe, in his facred Supper.

Let vs therefore, O my sweet Soule, follow the counsell of the Apostle, who adnifeth vs, first to examine our felues, and to judge our selues, (for vpon examination our

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our felues, we shall have cause enough, and too much so to doe) and then let we cate of that Bread,

and drinke of that Cup.

For my sweet Soule, it is not enough that we are borne into the world, and brought into the Church by Baptisme, if we be not also bred and fed in the Church, by this Supper of the Lord, which doth conduct vs to the fountaine of our

Before (therefore) we do pertake of fueh facred Viands, we are counfailed to prepare our felues, by examination, and indging of our felues.

life Christ Iesus, the Sa-

uiour of all that beleeve.

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my Soule) our felues, yea our own felues, as Isaid before that is our dutie, not an others, ithat's our fault; we must not break our neighbors head, like the Pharifee, but smite our own breafts with the

humble Publican. And we must doe this our owne felnes, not looking through the spectacles of others vpon our felus, but we must reflect von our owne selues. & fee with our own eies. for who knoweth better what we are, or what we have beene then we our selues doe, except Gody is greter then our harts.

Turne Confessor therefore O my Soule, and examiner

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aminer too, and let vs examine our owne selues, and let vs not be like Taylors, who measure others, or like Barbers, that cut and shaue others comonly, but not themselues.

Let vs not pry or gaze on the mote in our brothers Eie, but let vs trie to pull out the beame that is in our owne Eie,

By which meanes O my foule wee shall enedently see how to examine our owne selues, earnestly, exactly, and throughly, not like those who examine theire bad manners, as they doe their bad money, seeke

as if they would not fee, and and fearch as if they would not finde.

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But we must with great diligence, and dutie, make sound enquirie to finde out as Lapidaries and Gold smiths doe the true mettaile from the counterfeit, the good from the Bad.

Our duty O my sweet darling requires this examination at our hands, and the danger if we doe it not enforceth, for if we be not fitte to tender this duty, vnto our Lord God, we must labour to make our selues fit.

Now the way to make our felues fitte, is by examination, judging our felues, and so we shall be

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fure not to be judged of the Lord.

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Otherwise the danger is greate, for it manureth and draweth downe vpon vs an hidious sinne, euen to be guilty of the body, and bloud of the Lord.

Yea dreadfull, and dismall punishments doe follow this sinne, even no lesse then the eating and drinking damnation of soule and body to our owne selves, and it is the cause that many are sicke, and weake, and die, for that they discerne not the Lords body in this so holie an action.

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to bee examined, O my foule are our faith, and our repentance, which like two twinnes must goe hand in hand together.

For if I shall say I repent, when I doe not beleeue, I shall receive the Sacrament ignorantly. & if I say I beleeue, and doe not repent, I shall receive the Sacrament irreverently, how soeuer both wayes ynworthily.

In the examination of our faith O my Soule we shall finde out knowledge, and then we shall learne how to apply it.

We must know O my Soule three points especially.

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Firft

First mans generation created according to gods image, that is in holines, and rightcousnesse, for God made man reightcous at the first, but he sought out afterward many inventions of his owne cuill frailety by the seducing guile of the denill.

Secondly mans degeneration, how hee by this fining against his God, fell from that bleffed state, and plunged all his posteritie with him, into that fearefull and fatall repost.

Thirdly we must know O my Soule, mans regeneration, how hee was againe restored, and de-

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linered from the lawes of death, and state of damnation, by Christ Iesus his sufferings, of which assurance this Sacrament of the Lords supper is a Signe, and Scale.

The confideration of these particulars, O my Soule will enforce enery beleener to apply the benest, and blessing to our owne selves, and say.

What shall I give vnto the Lord for all his blessings, and favours, which he hath done vnto mee? I will receive the cup of saluation, and call vppon the name of the Lord.

I will examine my

life, by the Law of the ten commandements, & as in a mirror or lookeing-glaffe, I will behold my felfe therein, to fee the hedeousnesse of my finne and the horrour of my conscience.

Then O my Soule I will examine my facred Faith, which is more pretious then Gold of Ophir in the Articles of our beleefe, and fee therein our delinerance from the curle of the Law by the croffe of Christ.

There, there, O my Soule falt thou finde forginenesse of sins, and all other blefsings, and fanour's accrewing unto

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y le d thee, by thy sweet Sauiour lesus Christ.

In examining our sclues, O my deere Soule, by the Law of the Commandements, wee shall see how soule wee are, yea how vgly, by the deformity of sin, and how monsterous we are made by it in the sight of God.

Yea that glasse of the Law, sheweth vnto vs our many and manifould maladies, how our hearts doe swell with a Phlethory of pride, and GOD himselfe O my Soule, resisteth the proude.

How wee are shaken with the seauers of hust, and

and whore-mongers, & adulterers, GOD will iudge.

How we stagger, and reele to, and fro, with staggers of vnconstancy, like the raging Sea, that hath no reft.

How wee are puffed vp and swome with a Timpany of Malice, despite, & enuy, against our brother, and furely who fo hateth his brother, hath flaine kim in heart, and how wee are blowne uppe with the dropsie of courtousnes, which is the roote of all cuill.

Thefe and diverfe other diseases the presect Law of God will shew

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Denie these things we cannot, our own consciences do witnes against vs, &if our hart condemn vs, God is greater then our heart.

We must needes confesse then that wee are guilty, and being now arraigned at the barre of Gods iudgement: Wee must hold up our hand, and crie guiltie O Lord, guilty of the breach of all, and cuery one of thy commandements, both in rhought, word, and deede.

There is no other cure
O my foule, but to crie
for

for a Plalme of Mercie. Haue mercie vpon vs, O Lord, haue mercie vpon vs, according to the multitude of thy mercy, for the multitude of our transgressions, crie for the multitude of thy mercies to couer them.

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There is no other help O my soule, but to appeale from an angric God, instly displeased with our sinnes, to the same God appeased, and made friends with vs in our sweet Sauiour fessus.

In whom alone our Instification before God is perfect, albeit our Sanchification bee enperfect in our selues, because of our frailties.

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Draw me neere therefore vnto our God, not as perfect already: but to bee made perfect by the Sacrament of the bodie and bloud of Christ, whereby our reconciliation with God is sealed.

Draw me neere, O my foule I say, with true & vnfained repentance, wherein also we must be very carefull to examine our selues, especially in two maine points.

First, whether we be truly and hartily forrowfull for our sinnes past, for the broken spirit and rended heart, is the acceptable Sacrifice to the Lord.

And fecondly, whether wee

Pfal. 51.

wee be resolued to preuent as much as wee can for the time to come all sinne, and the temptations thereof, auoyding all persons, places, and occasions that may bring vs in danger of sinning against our God.

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Let vs therfore weepe
O my soule with Peter,
water our couch with
Danid, put on Sackcloth
with the King and people of Ninine, fall down
prostrate with Magdalen at the seete of fesm,
and rend our hearts, as
the Prophet Isel teacheth, for so good is our
God, that woon our vnfained repentance, he wil
turne the curses of our
sinnes

finnes into blessings, and this our godly griefe into cuerlasting grace.

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If therefore, O my foule, our heart bee not truly, and throughly touched with griefe for our finne, let vs become forrowfull, because wee are no more forrowfull, and resolue in the name of God to be more resolued.

For there is no dallying with God, nor with our consciences, for that deede is said not to bee done, that is not performed with the affection of the heart.

foseph of Arimathea, wrapped the body of lesw in cleane linnen, and

how

how dare wee, O my foule, receive him with an vncleane minde? If wee will not kiffe the Kings hand with a foule mouth, how shall we eate the Lords body with a foule faith.

n

Letvs indge our selves O deere soule, let vs indge our selves, that we may not bee condemned with the world.

Let vs indge our own wayes with the judgement of discussion, for wee have sinned against God, against our neighbours, and against our owne selves, both by deedes of Omission and Commission.

As wee have beene the fonnes

fonnes and daughters of fom yeares in this world; fo haue we beene the fathers and mothers of many transgressions, Aye me poore soule, Who can tell how of the offendeth? The Lord make vs cleane from our secret faults.

O sweet soule, we have nothing to plead for our selves, but to cry, Enter not into indgement with thy sernant, O Lord, for in thy sight shall no man lining beinstified.

And if at this time, O my foule, wee finde not fo much fauour as wee expect, nor feele not fo much comfort as we defire: yet O my foule,

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let vs wayte the Lords leasure, let vs willingly attend his good pleasure, for a more plentifull time of grace may come, nay assuredly will come.

Wherein Mathewa Publican shall become an Apostle, Magdalen the harlot shall become a chaste Votarie, Paul a Persecutour, shall become a Preacher, Tustine Martir a Gentile, shall become a Christian, Augustine a Manichie shall turne Catholique, Luther a Monke shall become a Protestant, and I deere foule albeit now fraile, feeble, and falling, shall by Gods grace become strong, stedfast, and and may stand vpright before our God in lesus

Christ.

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For our Almighty God in whom wee trust, will not quench smoking slax, nor breake a bruised Reed, hee will in pittle looke from his Sanctuarie, and seate of Mercie vpon vs dust creeping wormes and wretches, that lye here at his feete crying for mercie, and slying vnto him for samour in Christ lesus.

Whose most pretious red hart bloud doth dash, and wash out all our offences: let vs now therfore O my soule, claspe fast that our Sauiour Christ in the armes of our

our Faith, and fethim before our God as our Attonement, Peace, and perfect Reconciliation.

Let vs inly crie, and that instantly , O my foule, now at this very instant and moment, and fay in our felues, though none doth heare but God: Now, O Lord, euen now, comfort our trembling consciences, releeue our carefull mindes, ease our troubled hearts with that sweet dropping dewe of thy mercie and grace, showred and shed vpon vs in this bleffed Sacra-

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2 A right and revivend disposition in and at the Sacrament of the Lords Suppersolution and at Suppersolution and at

My decre foule inie confider at this present, whither we are come, what wee see, and what wee doe, for this that we are about is the greatest worke under the Sunne.

Supper, for at a Supper it was inflicted, and to the Supper of the Lord are we come, for he ordained it in remembrance of himselfe.

Wee are come to the breaking of the bread of N life

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life to the Lords Table are wee come, which is confecrated to the fellowship of the faithfull: we are come to the Congregation of the inst, and to the Encharist; where solemne thankesgining is celebrated.

Wee are come to a Sacrifice, Hoft, or Holocust, where wee offer Prayers, which are our reasonable Sacrifices, where also that Sacrifice of Christ once offered upon the Groffe, is cuer in this Sacrament represented whto vs.

drawne downe by his lone, and mercy is come vato vs. and inco vs. where

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where in pursuite of our blessed Lords promises, and by the power of his spirit wee are delivered from the curse of the Law, by his death, wee are seperated from the Profanc, wee are bound up to mutual loue, with our sweete Iesus, and all his children, unto the affereance of euerlasting happinesse.

Wee see heere O my deere Soule, represented to our outward sences a Minister, a Table, Bread, Wine, and our selues. The Minister blesseth, breaketh, giueth and we take, and eate.

Our receiving with the hand to eate the N 2 bread bread, and to drinke of the Cup in this Sacrament is our Protestation that we lay hold of the Promises made therein, and renounce all other waies, and meanes of Saluation, but that onely which is there represented.

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That is, the whole perfon of my Christ. O my soule, with all his graces is as truely, and as really presented, given, and received: as the Bread and Wine are presented give, & received.

Therfore O my foule, it is not onely Bread and Wine which is here prefented, but the very Body, and Bloud of Iesus Christ. The

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The very Body of my Saujour Iesus Christ, not glorified as it is now in Heauen, the very bloud of Christ not contained in the vaines, but the body of my sweet Saujour as it dyed for mee, and the bloud as it was shed for me vpon the Crosse are here present.

Not hidden, or inclofed in, with or under the Bread and Wine, but truely given vnto vs vn-Promife of der the Grace, and received by that spirituall Vnion, which we have with Iefus Christ our Lord.

Iefus Christ, iny deare Soule is heere brought vnto vs, not as he is now in

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in heaven glorified; but as hee hath in his body, and foute fully perfected our Redemption.

We receive the Lord Iesus into our mindes, not into our mouthest into our Faith, not into our Sence, for we knowe not Christ any more according to the Flesh, fince he is in heaven, and will not descend vntill the last day.

The Body and Bloud of our Lord are present to the beleeuer, not to the Bread and Wine to which the Promise was not made.

For this Presence of our Saujour in this Sacrament is as our Voion

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2 Cor.5.7. 2 Cor. 2.6

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with him is, thats mysticall, mentall, spirituall, and supernaturall, yet reall, most true, and most certaine, for that it is grounded on the promise, which the Holy Ghost hath assured vs.

Wee see also by our blessed Faith, O my soule, that Christ Iesus our Lord is himselfe an Agent in this sacred Sacrament. For the Minister gineth Bread and Wine, Christ giueth vs his Body and Bloud, the Bread and Wine to our bodies, the Body and Bloud to the hand of thee my Soule, the Bread and Wine outwardly,

M4 wardly

the Body and Bloud in-

inwardly, the Bread and Wine is received by the faithfull, and by hypocrites; the body & bloud is received by the faithfull onely.

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Therfore, O my deere foule, thou art of more value then my body, for my body receiveth the Bread and Wine with hand and mouth: but thou, O my foule, receiveft the Body and Bloud of Christ, even Iesus Christ, all whole, with all his graces, with the power of Faith, and operation of the Holy Ghost.

The Bread and Wine,
O my foule, are received
by the outward Man:
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the Flesh and Bloud by the inward Man, the Bread and Wine corporally, the Body & Bloud spiritually, the Bread and Wine may bee received vnworthily, the Body and Bloud cannot be received vnworthily, and cannot but bring blessing and eternall life to the receiver.

So that I see, O my soule, the Minister works together with God in this great mysterie: as the dispenser of his secrets, and Iesus Christ honoureth him, and vs, and all beleeuers with his presence.

The Minister giveth to the hand and mouth of N 5 the

Heb. 5.4.

1 Cor. 3.9.

the receamour outwardly : the Lord lefus comes inwardly, and gives him felfe truly , really , and certainly to the heart Ephef.3.17. and minde, where we receine him by Faith, and fo hee dwels with vs for cuermore.

Wee fee then, O my foule, in this Sacrament, the iustice of our God fatisfied, his wrath appeafed by this onely Sacrifice of Christs Body and Bloud: We acknowledge his mercie and love to. ward vs, who punished our finne in his Sonne, and game vs life evernall, whereof wee were deprined by our transgreffions. Now

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Now then my foule, fince God hath given vs his Sounc, he will donbt-leffe with him give vs all things, as Renovation to rife from Sinne, Refurrection to rife from the grave, fealing vs with his Spirit, to bee made one, and the fame body with him.

This Sacrament then, is our spiritual meate, foode, scale, testimonic, and confirmation of that Vnion and Communion, which we have with Issue Christ, and by him with the Father and the holy Shost, and by them all with the faithfull, and doth assure vs, that hee dwelleth in vs, and wee in him.

1 Cor.12.13

1 20.6.5,6

Eph. 5.30

Yea, Omy loule, we are hereby fed spiritually, and made stells of his slies, and bone of his bones, to growe in him, vntill we all meete in the vnity of faith to a parfect man, and so consequently to be partakers of the divine nature in all the graces of our Lord fesus.

This Sacrament, O my foule, is our entertainment, whereby wee are tyed to be the people of God, our foules hereby become immortall, and are exempted from the eurle of the fecond death, which should merualloudy enflame our loue towards God, who hath

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hath made vs partakers of this so incomparable and voualuable'a guift. For now, O my foule,

Iesus Christ himself commeth to remaine, dwell, and line in vs by his Spirit, and canfeth that we remaine, dwell, and line in him by faith, that fo he may be ours and wee his.

And this bleffed Vnion of vs with Christ, O. my foule, is Effentiall, the truth thereof is reall, the meanes therof, which Eph. 5.32. is Faith, and the cause which is the Spirit, are Supernaturall, the forme and Effence is incomparable, and fecret, as long as wee shall bee in this life. As

10.6, 56.

Gal. 2.20. I 10.3.2 4.

1 Cor. 13.9

As truly therefore as I receive the Bread and Wine visibly by the hand and mouth: So truly O my soule, I believe that I by Faith receive the very body and blond of Christ.

It is most requisite therefore. O my soule, that wee draw neere this great mysterie with all due renerence, and that the posture of this my body be such, as becomment those that receive from God by sanctified meanes, the power of our Saluation,

Having our hearts lifted up to the things represented, which are in heaven, and not tyed to

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the signes beneath, not to adore the Bread and Wine, or to reserve them for Reliques. For Christ did not say in the institution, elevate, offer, adore, shut vp, earrie about, but Take, Eate, Drinke, and doe this in remembrance of me.

Reuerence, O my foul, the antiquity of this fo high and so heavenly a my sterie, for it was ordained by our Sauiour Christ Iesus, when the world was three thousand, nine hundred, four-score, & sine yeares old, the foure and twentith day of March, and in the three and thirtith yeare of the Natinity of Iesus

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Chrift our Lord, now almost sixteene hundred yeares agoe.

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It was ordained , O my foule, the Thursday at Euen before his fufferings on Friday following, in the night that Christ our Saniour was betrayed by Iudas, at the ends of the eating of the Paschall Lambe, a solemne Sacrament of the Lawe then abrogated, in place whereof this Supper was inftituted.

The Paschall Lambe fignifying the delinerance from the fernitude of Egypt: This Supper fignifying our delinerance, O my foule, from

the

Dan 9. 24.

the flauery of the denill, which lefus Christ hath wrought by his comming in the fulneffe of time, to purge iniquity, and to bring in enerlalting righteonfnesse.

Therfore O my foule, if wee approach to this Table without Faith and Repentance, or not instructed with a competent knowledge in this mysterie, or bring our hearts full of hatred, couetousnesse, euill affecti: ons, and wicked purpofes then we shall receive the fignes not the things fignified, wee shall receine the Bread of the I ord, not the Bread, the Lord.

If any come, O my fonle to this Table, who being capable, yet neuertheleffe are flayned with some siane, from which either by their infirmity or negligence, they cannot viterly rid themselves : these may receive the Sacrament, though not to their condemnation : yet they may drawe downe vpon them Gods chastifements, which will make them more warie, leaft they should be condemned with the prophane.

Wherfore, O my foule, let vs frame our manners, gestures, and behaniours, to the mo lesty, granity, and maiestie of

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this fo high and he auchly a Mysterie.

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y n e e Let vs abandon all countenances and actions which may bewray in vs Pride, Presumption, Lightnes, loue of our selues, or despising of others; Let vs shume all garish Apparel that may offend our Neighbour, or make him thinke that we delight in our selues.

But let vs in soule and body conioyned, waite now, and look vp to him that made both soule and body; let the body humbling it selfe stirre vp the soule, and let the soule in lifting vp it selfe excite the bodie, and both stand ready before the Lord. And

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And because, O my Soule, we have both bin sharers in offending our good God; let vs both concurre to waite, and attend in all humiliation of body, and humility of soule for this so vnspeakable a grace.

Crying, O Physicition heale vs. O King of Heamen pardon vs. O God showere downe thy mercies upon vs. O King of Glorie come now into vs, that we may live with thee and praise thy name for ever.

For O my Soule, this action of ours is a part of divine Worship, and as our Reading doth feed vs, and our Meditation digests our Reading;

ding; So let our Praiers bee as the force, and strength that presents this our Worshippe to God,

We must kneele vnto our God, for thats the gesture of Sinners, and Suters that desire to receive; and of them that offer, and desire to be received, and accepted at Gods hand.

For this Sacrament is the perfection of all Sacrifices, and in which we tender, and offer to God a charitable facrifice of Almes to the reliefe of the poore, with which Sacrifices God is well pleafed, and pacified) We offer, O my Soule, a Sacri-

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Sacrifice of a denout heart in prayer, which God will respect, we offer the Sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart, which God will not despisse, and wee offer the Sacrifice of a thankfull heart, which God will honour.

Shall not wee kneele then, O my fonle here, where we are fuiters for our Pardon, and where we doe receiue our Pardon written in the bloud of Christ, and sealed to our soules with his most pretious death, where so great a Maiestie descends to so despicable wormes, to give the Son of his Substance, and not spa-

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sparing his Beloued, that he might spare vs wicked and rebellious servants, nay slaves to the deuill. O my soule, we will say as Iosuah said: But I and my bouse will serve the Lord: So whatsoever others doe in pleasing themselves, and abounding in their owne sence; yet thou & I O my soule will kneele before the Lord our Maker.

For shall not we offer in this Sacrifice, O my soule, all our schees, wee have but two mites, a body and a soule; shall any part, peece, or parcellbe wanting, in this source wanting, in this source a worke? If the king that is but a mortall

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pardon wee will stoope, and bowe the head, and kneele, nay kille his feet. If wee doe this to Gods image, much more let vs O my soule, doe it to God hinselfe.

The place O my foule is dreadfull where wee are, for it is not onely the house of God but the gate of heaven, and not that onely, but also the table of God; and as the place is dreadfull, fo our action, O my foule, is dreadfull, not of familiarity, which oft breedeth Presumption, and maketh men come pompoully, and glorioully, but of dread and reuerence,

rence, which requireth all denotion, and deied-

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ment of foule and body. Can we beho'd in this

wonderfull great myfterie the Lord Christ offered vp, and the Prieft facrificing, and the Communicants present to be made red, with that pretious bloud, together with our felues, O my foule, and can we thinke that we conuerfe among

mortalls on earth, or rather that even now wee are suddenly translated

into heaven?

What faithfull heart can doubt, O my foule, that even in the minute of this action at the voice of the Pricht, the heavens

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are opened, the Quires of Angels are present in thole mysteries of Iesus Chrift, heauen and earth are conjoyned, spirit and Flesh, Christ, and our selues; And can we presume to taste of this Bread of heaven, & forget the duty of finfull and earthly men, in reception of such dreadfull my fteries?

Let vs kneele then, O my foule, in this prefentation of our felues, to fo gracious a guifr, for our eyes looke vp to the hils, whence commeth our helpe, and let our knees be bowed downe to receine this Angels food.

The child, O my foule,

in

in the Mothers wombe, hath his eyes placed oner his knees, which naturally canfeth the eyes to breake into teares, when we kneele, as answering by a naturall affection, those with whom they were nourished.

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Those that are insited, and doe taste of the headuenly feast of the Lambs marriage, doe kneele and prostrate themselves, and they that rest from all their labours, rest not from this labour of prostration: Come then my soule, let vs goe, and doe likewise, that the will of our God may be done on earth as it is in heaven, for this is the having and

O 2 hold-

holding, the right, and possession of our euerlasting clayme, title, and interest of eternal life, through fesus Christ our Lord.

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O my deare foule, we haue humbled our selues in priuate, & family exercifes before we came hither: we have humbled our felues heere in pub. lique with the Minister, and with this Congregation, both in confesfion of finne, and in fupplicating for pardon: Let vs not now sweete fonle, cease to bee humble, and take state vpon vs, as if wee were hailefellow, and equall with God. The

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The neerer we drawe to this facred act, let vs be the more humble, and so we shall come neerer to God: Let vs wash and baptize our selues with teares, sigh in contemplation, cast downe our selues with singular veneration, adoration, prostration, and kneeling,

Pfal. 2.

And seeing, O my soule, thousands of thousands, and millions of millions of millions in the triumphant Church, and in the millitant kneele downe, and worthip God. Shall we sit, or stand, or walk? No. No. Cast downe thy selfe then O thou mi-

and so wee shall reioy ce

to him with trembling.

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ferable soule, at the feete of lesus, that thou maist cease to bee miserable. and bowe thy knee to him, to whom all knees are bowed, and let vs affure our selues, that with. out this wedding garment of humility, we shall never bee suffered to a. bide at this marriage Supper of the Lambe, but shall be call out into vt. ter darknes, where shall bee weeping and gnash. ing of teeth.

Being thus heauenly prepared to come, and thus reuerently disposed to partake of these sacred secrets; Now O my deere soule, let ys put forth our hand to take,

and

and there with one heart to touch, taste, and doe in remembrance of our fweet Sauiour Iesus, this bleffed action, that the Power thereof may re-Solue vs in our life with quietnesse, in our death with comfort; may gine vs hope in our grane, to rife in the glory of the iust, may give vs a publique discharge of all our finnes, in the day of iudgement, and inuest vs with immortality in the enioyment of cuerlasting happines, through lefue Christ our Lord. Amen Lord lefus, Amen, and Amen.

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3. A safe and setled resolution after the reception of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.

Beffed art thou now,
O my soule, blessed
I say, with the participation of such sacred heauenly Manna, since wee
are hereby grassed into
our Lord so his mysticall body; we must therefore beare fruit, and doe
such good workes, as
may beseeme our calling.

For it is impossible, that those who have tast ed of the Lambe of God, should bee like Tygers, Wolnes, or Dogges, in

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Wherefore, O my foule, there must now appeare in vs the seedes of an holy life, to walke strongly against all teptations of the flesh, the world, and the deuill, in a state of regeneration, and sandification of life, by Christ our blessed Lord, in whom it is perfected.

Walking warily, and circumspectile in that measure of Grace which is given, which albeit it be weake, and unperfect in this our feeble life: yet let us looke to it. O my soule, that it bee void of all dissimulation

on and hypocrifie.

Take heede then , O my foule, least we have a shewe onely of godlineffe, and denie the power thereof, for as the Gospell is the Power of God to Saluation, to all that beleeve: So is this Sacrament the power of God to the bettering of our lines, ynlesse wee be

Reprobates. Therefore O my Iweet

Soule, let vs shake off that finne which doth fo eafily befet vs, and let vs now in Gods name,

runne with patience the race that is fet before VS.

And fithence the Lord our God hath pulled our

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Heb. 12,1

feete out of the fnare, and fet vs in a large roome: let vs runne the way of our Gods Commaundements, and our hearts shall be enlarged to be thankfull.

That wee may truly (ay with the Apostle; I line, yet not I, for now Christ liveth in me lince I leane to live the life of Gal. 2.20. finne, that I may altogether live the life of grace.

For virtually , O my foule, is the bloud of Chrift, fired abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghoft, & virtually doth the heanenly Manna of his facred body, frengthen vs with power to

bee even in our verie breathing, terrible to all the devils in hell, and to all the evils we meete in the world.

We have not bene, O my deare Soule, at a Sagrament of Commemoration onely of the fufferings of the Lord, who dyed for vs : but also at a Sacrament of Commu nion, whereby wee hane followshippe with the Saints, and therefore we must beartily endeauour, and bodily labour for fanctitie of life, that cur foules and bodics may be wel-pleafing Sacrifices to the Lord our God for euer.

Rom, 12,

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fore, O my Soule, wee shall finde our selues to be reformed, and in greter sinnes the power of this Sacrament hathtaken away our full consent.

If therefore, O my Soule, wee feele in our felues not so sharpe motions of Anger, Enuie, Pride, Luxurie, and the like, let vs give the thankes to the Body and Bloud of Christ, for the Power thereof worketh it, and let vs reioy ce because the deepest wound draweth neere to health.

Andremeber we where we have bene. Was not the Place holy Ground? Was it not the House of

God,

God, the entrance into Heauen; yez, the Table of God, and the meate, Angelicall Manna?

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Shal not all this strick atterrour into vs. O my Soule, neuer to offend our gracious God any more, neuer to returne

to folly againe.

Had not wee, O my Soule, the Heauens opened vnto vs at the time of the Confectation of the bleffed Sacrament, and did we not fee in the Contemplation of our most precious Faith, our Master of Requests in Heauen, the Lord fossitanding at the right hand of God intreating for vs, and shall wee

not tremble, and quake to offend to great, to glorious, to gratious a Sollicitor of our cause?

We cannot deny, O my Soule, but that the Sacraments are Signes vnto vs? Baptisme of our entrance into the Cougnant withour God, and the Lords Supper of our Entertainment ther, to,

Shall wee not shew
then some signes and tokens of good that wee
have received herein a
that they which belowe
not may bee wonne to
God, and in seeing our
integrity of life and sinceritic of profession may
glorise our good God
which

which is in Heauen for giuing fuch gifts vnto men.

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Yea, we know, O my Soule, that the Sacraments are feales of Gods fauour : vndoubtedly then they leave a print, and forme of holines vpon al that vafainedly beleeue, whereby God will cuer know them to bee his, who have received the stamp and marke of his Grace.

And the Sacraments are the Conduit Pipes of this Grace, which conney the Lord lefus vnto vs, and into vs, and if he be come into vs, doubtles hee washeth our pellutions away, & maketh

all cleane. Neither is there any creature, O my foule, that hath any hope of Heauen, but doth purge it felfe in this finners Bath. It is impossible therefore, but wee should be much reformed in our mindes being brought so neere in so sacred an Vnion, and Communion with our God, and his Saints.

And now, O my sweet Soule, me thinkes I feele a great fulnesse of ioy to my vnderstanding sence, hereby I know that thou my soule art satisfied with plenteousnes of Gods House, and hast drunke of his pleasures as out of a River.

I also

1. 10. 3.3.

Pfal.36.8.

I also feele an incomparable ioy, O my soule, in my wil and affections, in that I now loue my Lord God with all mine heart, for that hee hath youchsafed graciously to affoord me this sweet euroyment of his reall presence.

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I loue also at the Saints & children of God who pertake with me in this facred fecret Mysterie, where ener they be in all the world, and in the sweetnes of this blessed Society, and Fellowship I enjoy an incomparable contentation.

Moreoner, O my foule, me thinkes I feele an infinit matter of ioy in my memory memory, when I recall to mind, and recount the vnutterable mercies of my God in this fo surpalsing a fauour of his eternall benediction.

How the Lord our good God hath preuented vs with the blessings of sweetnesse, with the riches of his grace, with his goodnes external, internall, eternall. I trust therefore, O my sweete sonle, that we shall sing the mercies of our Lord God for suer.

For my Memory can recount how wondrous mercifull our God hath bene vnto vs; and euen now at this very instant hath clented vs from all Pfal. 21. 4.

Pfal 101.

our

our impurities that are pift, both in soule and body, as if we had never committed any fin at all in all our life.

The multitude therefore of my forrowes, that I had in my heart for my grieuous offences, this grations fauour of my God hath cleane done away, and in steede therof the comforts of our heavenly Father have refreshed thee O my foule, in fealing vnto vs our perfect Instification in Christ, and strengthning the weakeneff: of our begunne Sanctification of life.

And now O my deare Companion, and Familiar,

P[41.94.19.

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liar, let vs rake alwaies Pfal. 55.15 sweet counsell together, let vs walke in Gods House, and talke as friends.

Thou, O my Soule, shalt inwardly cry, and flie to the Lord, for the continuance of his louing fauours, and I outwardly with bended knees, and lifted vp hands will attende thy denotion, and both will waite the Lords good pleafure.

That for the time to come, and for the remainder of our wretch- 2.Cor.7.1. ed dayes wee may clente our selues by the power of Gods grace from all filthinesse both of the fleth

Eph.4. 22.

tentiaries of the Gospell of Christ, and foresting in this holy Mountaine, whither by this facted mysterie wee are most happily ascended.

the Snake, may strip off

our olde skinne truly,

speedily, and steedily, fi-

uing in Repentance as

true Votaries, and Peni-

For now, O my fonle, wee have begun in the Spirit, in this Mount of the Lord, where we have

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talked with our God, and seene the Lord lesus transfigured; It will be a perpetual shame to end in the flesh, and to play Demas part, who first harkened to the Word. and afterward embraced the world.

2 Tim. 4.10

O what a Reproach will it bee , if after wee have fed on Angels food, we should againe lust after the flinking Garlick and Onyons of Egipt. Numb. 1.5. O my foule, ir is farre worfe to fall backe, then to fall into finne.

God speaketh plainly, That without holineffe it is impossible toplease him, for without shall be Dogges , Enchannters, Whore-

Heb. 12.14.

Apoc.22.15

Whoremongers, Adulterers, Idolaters, and whofoeuer loueth, or maketh lyes.

Gal. 5.19.

For the workes of the Flesh are manifest, adulterie, fornication, vncleanenesse, wantonnes. idolarry, witchcraft, enuie, murther, drunkenneffe, and fuch like, and they that do fuc's things, shall not inherite the Kingdome of God.

Marke, O my soule, They that dothefethings shalldye, saith God, not they that have done thefe things: For in some things we offend all, and cuery age of our life, even among the most faithfull and fincere, hath its

IAC.3.2.

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its peculiar fault and folly.

But they that do thefe things, they shall die, that is, those that continue in doing of them without repentance; not they that have done them, and repent, and strine to their vemost endeuour, neuer to returne againe to folly.

Seeing then, O my foule, we have now escaped the filthinesse of the world, the plague, and cuill of our owne hearts, and the deuill of darkneffe, and have tafted of the good word of God, and of the powers, and ioyes of the life to come, Heb. 6.5. How should we ener re-

uole

314	The Merchants
2 Pet.2.2	the dogge returne again to our vomite, and with the Swine to our wal- lowing in the mire. The Kingdome of hea-
<i>Luc</i> . 13. 2	uen, O my sweet soule, suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force, it must be our Resolution then to struggle, and strongly to strine to
	get in at this narrowe gate, and to walke wari- ly in the perplexed path of life. Our holy Profession,
Mat. 13, 4	O my foule, is not for lazy & cowardly minds, for the Kingdome of heaven is an hill, we must fweat to get up to it.

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for na Go ou that and turn bed Go Go

It is Treasure hid in the field, wee must dig for it : it is an Hire, wee must labour for it : it is a Price, we must runne for it: it is a Crowne, wee must fight for it all our life long, euen vnto the end, and in the end to, for then Sathan will bee most busie with vs.

Let vs refolue therefore, O my foule, in the name and power of our God, daily to prepare our selues ftrong against that day of our death, and houre of our depar- Ind. 13. 2. ture hence, and not to bee wandring Harres in Gods firmament, or wauering hypocrites in Gods Tabernacle, caried

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M41.20.2

I Cor. 9.24.

2 Tim 43.

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about with enery blass of Doctrine; neither let vs quench, or grieue the holy Spirit of our God, or turne this his exceeding Grace into wantonnesse.

But as faithfull , dutifull, and deere children. let vs subject our selues to the obedience of faith, and grace of God; and then vndoubtedlie GOD will bee alwayes with vs vnto the end, in the end, and after the end, and will make vs as the Angels in his King. dome of Glory, through his owne mercie, and the merits of lesus Christ our Lord, in whose name let vs in humble and hartie

Rom.I.

Mat. 2.9.

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tie prayer prostrate our felues, and powre out our hearts before the Throne of Grace, and present our Supplications vnto our good God, in the fauing name of our Christ, according to that most excellent forme of prayer, that Christ hath fandified with his owne bleffed mouth : faying for our felues, and ours, and for all Gods people. O our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed bee thy name. Thy Kingdome come. Thy will bee done euen on earth, as it is in heaven. Gine vs this day our daily bread. And forgine us our trespasses, as we forgine them that trefpasse against vs. Lead vs
not into temptation, but
deliner vs from that enill.
For thine is the Kingdome, the Power,
and the Glory,
for ever and
ever.
Amen.

FINIS.



vs but ill.